- **SUPER / C2**

Etiquette for the stalked: Rules, tools and fools of attraction

- **SAT.SPECIAL / A2-1**

Spielberg shares stirring reflections on war and vengeance

- **NEWS / A2**

Senators rebuff Puno on Cha-cha: It's not going to happen

- **BUSINESS / B1**

Exports growth target missed due to weak electronics demand

Behave like ambassadors, US Embassy warns GIs

By Volt Contreras and Philip C. Tubeza

AMERICAN TROOPS IN THIS YEAR'S "Balikatan" exercises are barred from hiring sex workers and ordered to behave like "informal ambassadors."

The United States Embassy yesterday reiterated that American soldiers taking part in joint RP-US military exercises in the country are

BEHAVE / A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, February 11, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 65 P18 website: www.inq7.net

S. Korean wives grumble, French sexed up on sex life

SEOUL—MARRIED South Korean women are the least happy with their sex lives, Japanese men are the most likely to try and dodge a certain sex problem and French men are the most fond of their frolicking, according to a recent survey.

S. KOREAN / A7

SUBUKAN NILA ANG PINOY!

Peso highest in 3 ½ years

S&P credit upgrade from 'negative' to 'stable' perks up markets

By Doris C. Dumlao, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PESO YESTERDAY SURGED TO ITS HIGHEST LEVEL in three and a half years against the US dollar after Standard and Poor's upgraded the country's credit rating, offsetting rival Moody's Investors Service's earlier decision to leave its ratings on the Philippines unchanged.

The peso closed at 51.48:$1 on Friday after reaching an intra-day high of 51.43. It was the local currency's highest finish since ending at 51.30 on Aug. 2, 2002.

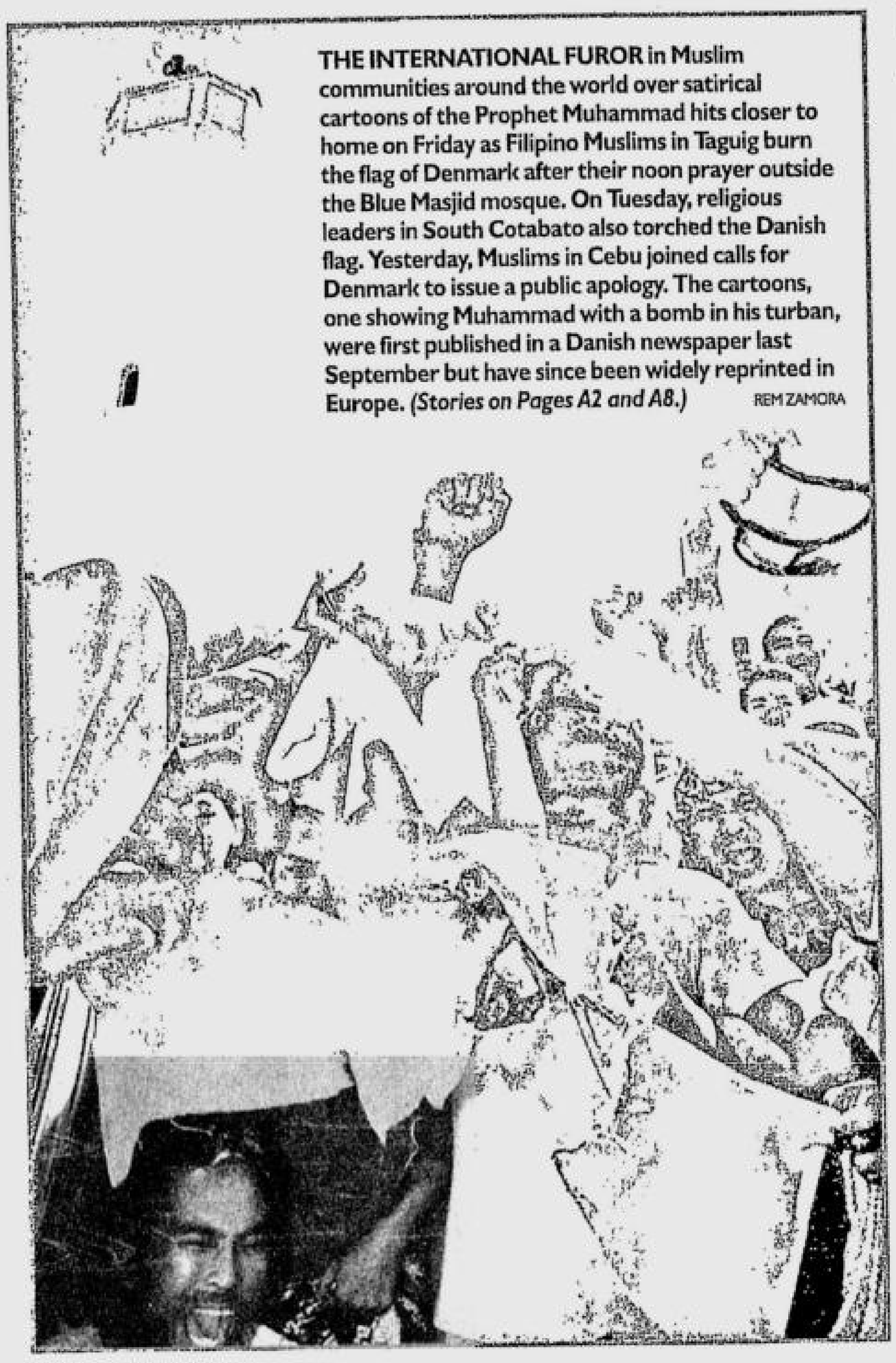
"The stable outlook reflects revised expectations concerning the prospects of policy continuity and adherence to fiscal consolidation, which foreshadows improved chances for overall deficit reduction and stabilization of the country's debt dynamics," S&P said in a statement.

The local currency gained 25 centavos from Thursday's close of 51.73 to the US dollar. Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $537.5 million.

Local stocks and Philippine sovereign bonds likewise firmed up as the financial markets cheered the change in S&P's rating outlook on the Philippines from "negative" to "stable" following fiscal reform that included raising the rate of value-added tax this month to 12 percent from 10 percent.

"It's a recognition of the government reform measures particularly in the fiscal

PESO / A7



THE INTERNATIONAL FUROR in Muslim communities around the world over satirical cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad hits closer to home on Friday as Filipino Muslims in Taguig burn the flag of Denmark after their noon prayer outside the Blue Masjid mosque. On Tuesday, religious leaders in South Cotabato also torched the Danish flag. Yesterday, Muslims in Cebu joined calls for Denmark to issue a public apology. The cartoons, one showing Muhammad with a bomb in his turban, were first published in a Danish newspaper last September but have since been widely reprinted in Europe. *(Stories on Pages A2 and A8.)* REM ZAMORA

SC urged to stop GMA, or Palace, Senate to collide

By Armand N. Nocum and Christine O. Avendano

SAYING THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN PLUNGED INTO a constitutional crisis, 17 of the country's 23 senators yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop President Macapagal-Arroyo from enforcing her controversial Executive Order No. 464.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he and the other senators were asking the high court to "take prompt action to avert a direct confrontation between the Senate and Malacañang." He said Ms Arroyo was "criminally liable" for issuing such an order.

The appeal for a temporary restraining order was the second legal action taken by senators in recent weeks to defang the controversial presidential edict which bars government officials from appearing in congressional hearings without Ms Arroyo's clearance.

"The EO has led to a constitutional crisis in the

SC URGED / A4

ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

MONUMENT TO MARTYR OF DEMOCRACY: 20 years ago today, a young man with an "impossible dream" was brutally murdered in the plaza of San Jose, Antique. There now stands a monument to the relentless freedom fighter in a time of dictatorship.

Mike Defensor: Why Bantay Bata funds?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., and Bayani San Diego Jr.

ABS-CBN'S SUPPOSED USE OF ITS CHARITY arm, Bantay Bata 163, in providing funeral and medical services to the dead and injured in the Feb. 4 stampede has raised some eyebrows, including Malacanang's.

Michael Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, yesterday wondered why a foundation specifically geared to save and nurture victims of child abuse was at the forefront of the broadcast network's efforts to compensate and soothe the stampede victims and their families.

But Bantay Bata program director Tina Monzon-Palma denied that ABS-CBN was using the foundation's funds for the alleged purpose.

"We are here only for our technical expertise in taking care of victims and those left behind by those who died ... We only provide ground support, such as counseling and handling of relatives, but not financial resources. We don't have that much funds," Palma told the INQUIRER by phone.

Asked earlier if it was proper for ABS-CBN to source the stampede funds through Bantay Bata, Defensor said: "No."

He said the foundation was receiving donations from various individuals and corporations and not only from ABS-CBN, implying that the network might be using donations that were meant for child abuse victims, and not its own corporate funds, to fulfill its obligations.

"That is not the mandate of Bantay Bata or the core basis of why it was founded," Defensor said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Palma said ABS-CBN had received generous donations from corporate sponsors—specifically Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.-Smart Communication and San

MIKE / A6

Ugly word war mars hero's remembrance for Evelio Javier

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Fe Zamora
in Manila

EVELIO JAVIER, THE ONCE AND future governor of Antique, had a dream: Genuine public service that would uplift the lives of the people, especially the poor.

But his life—as well as what he called his "impossible dream"—was cut short by a hail of bullets 20 years ago today, at the height of the struggle against Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

Javier backed Corazon Aquino against Marcos in the "snap" presidential election in 1986. Public anger over his brutal murder added fire to the nationwide anti-Marcos protests leading to Edsa I.

To mark Javier's 20th death anniversary, his family and colleagues have called on the youth to live his dream.

Said his widow, Precious Lotilla-Javier, in an e-mail to the IN-

UGLY / A4

One-stop shabu 'resto' in Pasig raided

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY WERE CALLED "RESTAURANTS" but hardly looked like places where you could sit down and eat. They even had armed guards but the entrance fee was cheap.

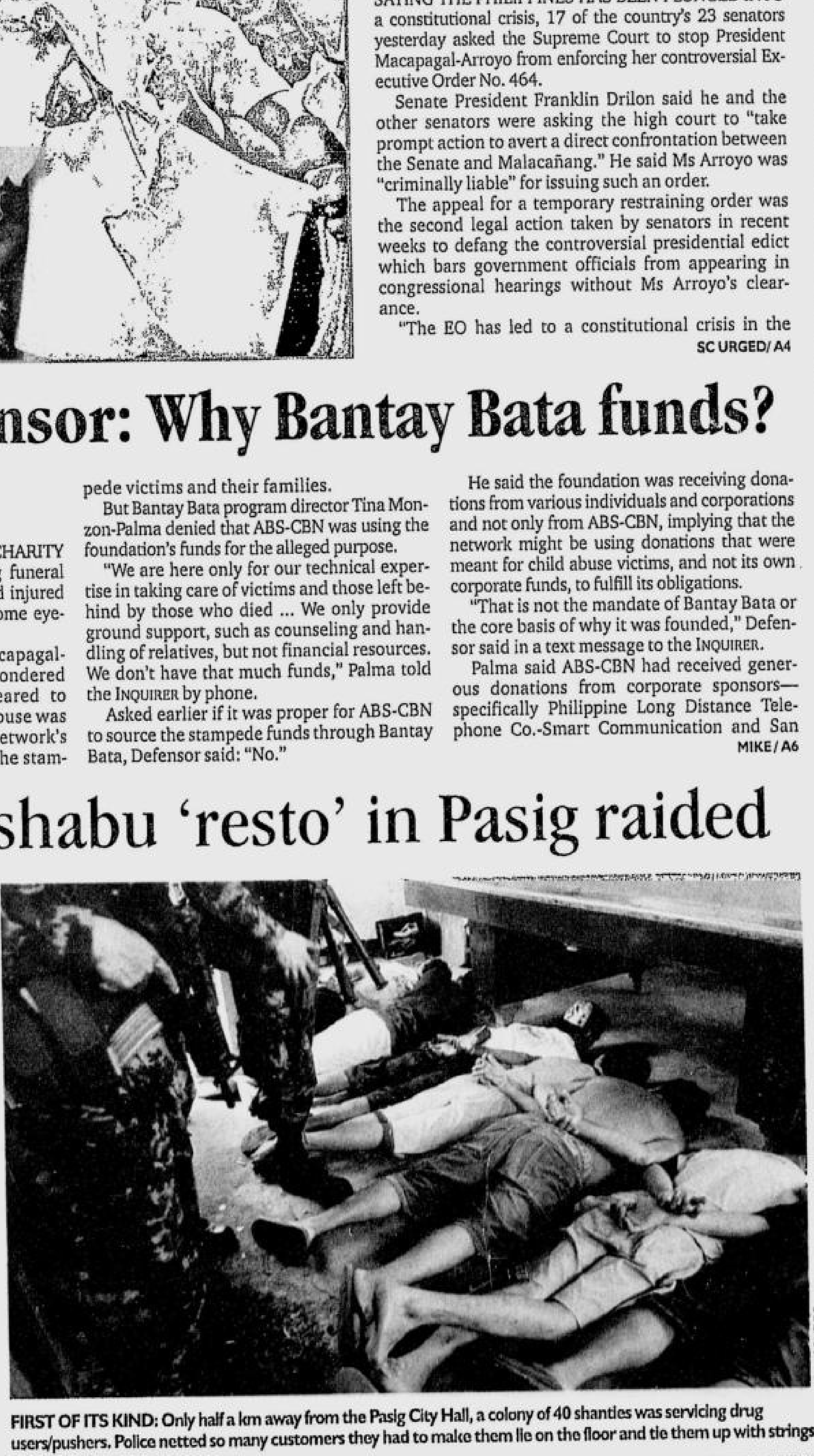
A sign at the entrance said: "Don't just spit anywhere."

In one of the most incredible operations they have launched anywhere, the Philippine National Police yesterday raided a cluster of drug dens inside a shanty neighborhood in Pasig City and took more than 300 people into custody, including about 50 women and children.

Before the day was over, the entire seven-man force of the police precinct only 500 meters from the dens had been sacked and the anti-narcotics team of the Pasig police had been ordered to undergo retraining.

"Incomprehensible," muttered

ONE-STOP / A6



JOAN BONDOC

FIRST OF ITS KIND: Only half a km away from the Pasig City Hall, a colony of 40 shanties was servicing drug users/pushers. Police netted so many customers they had to make them lie on the floor and tie them up with strings.

'Bully' forces PAL to pull out of Laoag

By Nikko Dizon and Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A FORMER MAYOR ALLEGEDLY bullied a Philippine Airlines (PAL) employee prompting the country's flag carrier to indefinitely suspend its Manila-Laoag-Manila flights starting Feb. 13.

Two sources who were privy to the incident narrated to the INQUIRER the traumatic experience of a PAL customer relations officer (CRO) on Feb. 3 in the hands of former Laoag Mayor Roger Fariñas who belongs to the politically influential Fariñas clan.

The sources requested anonymity, citing the sensitive nature of their positions in the

BULLY / A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Central and Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao. Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/11/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Angry Muslims burn Danish flag; leaders urge restraint

MUSLIM LEADERS URGED RESTRAINT AS HUNdreds of angry Muslims burned a mock Danish flag outside a mosque in Quiapo yesterday to denounce controversial cartoons of the prophet Muhammad first published in a Danish newspaper.

The protesters, chanting "Allah Akbar!" (God is great!), demanded an apology from the prime minister of Denmark, where the caricature of the prophet, including one showing him with a bomb in his turban, was first published by a newspaper last September.

They also demanded that President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines condemn the caricatures.

The cartoons, which have been widely reprinted in Europe, have sparked international condemnation and violence in Muslim countries.

"We are not afraid of the United States or Europe," said an angry Jamil Hiyahyah, grand imam of the Islamic Center in Quiapo.

"We will go to war to defend Islam if needed," he said.

Amerol Gulam Ambiong, president of the National Muslim Peace and Order Council, said the caricatures assauted Muslims' honor and dignity.

"The portrayal of Muhammad through different images and caricatures is not allowed in Islam," he said, adding that the Muslims would gladly go to war and die if the Danish government failed to take responsibility.

Muslim groups are planning a series of protest actions next week, including a picket in front of the Danish embassy in Makati on Monday.

Ambiong said some Muslims have threatened to torch the embassy, "[but] while we are really angry at what happened, we assure the public that Monday's rally will be peaceful."

Earlier this week, police ordered a stepped-up security around the building housing the Danish embassy.

Other Muslim leaders, however, called on fellow Muslims to show tolerance and moderation in their protests.

"Mocking others, irrespective of religious affiliation, is provoking people to nurture hatred," said Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council.

"But we urge Muslims to exercise restraint and sobriety," he added.

A scholar of the Koran, Ustadz Muhammad Sulaiman, pointed out that Muhammad himself never reacted violently to even tougher insults.

He recalled how the Makkans, who defied Muhammad, once stoned him so badly that he ended up with bloodied legs. The Archangel Gabriel reportedly asked him what punishment he wanted for the attackers. He said, "let there be none, but let they be guided to the truth," Sulaiman said.

But Sulaiman, a graduate of Luga (the language of the Koran) at the state-run King Saud University) in Saudi Arabia, pointed out that it was "not correct" to depict the prophet in any manner.

Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan, chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, said that if Muhammad were alive today, he would have taught extremists and moderates how to be better Muslims instead of violently reacting to an artist's creation inspired by his own impression of today's Muslims.

Ampatuan said a major attempt at downgrading the prophet had also come from 7th-century Muslims who killed his grandson and some of his followers.

"The killing of his grandson and his companions, and the subsequent denial (by some Muslims) that it happened, was the most painful and long-lasting insult on him," Ampatuan said.

Ali Tillah, chair of the Bangsamoro National Congress, called for sobriety, appealing to Muslims to be more understanding, saying their grievances can be resolved in a legal and peaceful manner.

But he said Denmark should issue an apology because it tolerated the newspaper's act, as it "would help us pacify our Muslim brothers here."

"Freedom of the press cannot trample upon the higher freedom of religion. Apologies are required," the Ulama forum, a group of Muslim scholars, said in a resolution.

Tillah also urged the President and the CBCP to weigh in on the issue.

"Are we just going to wait if something will happen in our country before we take action?" he said.

Based on the 2000 census, there are 3.9 Muslims, about 5 percent of the population, in the Philippines which with East Timor, is one of only two predominantly Christian nations in Asia.

Ren Jallaludin Ropeta, deputy chair of the Moro-Christian Peoples' Alliance, while denouncing the caricatures as blasphemous, called on "our Muslim brothers and sisters to consider the present dilemma with an open mind."

Margaux C. Ortiz and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with reports from Jeoffrey Maitem, Michael Lim Ubac, Jocelyn R. Uy and AFP, AP

Probe set on how gov't spent Marcos loot

By TJ Burgunio

AN IRATE SENATE NOW WANTS to conduct an inquiry into the government's use of the P35-billion ill-gotten wealth confiscated from the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Senators signed during an emergency caucus Wednesday night a resolution calling for an investigation into the disposition of the sum, a portion of which was allegedly used to bankroll President Macapagal-Arroyo's election campaign in 20004.

The senators called the caucus after Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government skipped the Senate budget hearings that day, invoking Executive Order No. 464.

"All the senators present signed the resolution," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee on agriculture looking into the alleged misuse of the P728-million fertilizer fund, said in a phone interview.

2 phone calls stop generals' evictions

ALL IT TOOK WAS A COUPLE OF phone calls for former Armed Forces Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza to put off eviction from his Camp Aguinaldo quarters which he continues to occupy five months after he retired.

Braganza, a former senior military aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was to have been evicted yesterday, with two other retired generals.

Military police stopped the eviction process after Braganza asked AFP Chief Gen. Generoso Senga for an extension until March 10. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Senators rebuff Puno on Cha-cha: It's not going to happen

NEWLY-APPOINTED INTERIOR Secretary Ronaldo Puno was soundly rejected by senators yesterday over his plan to enlist the support of 195 lawmakers to amend the 1987 Constitution by way of a constituent assembly.

"It's not going to happen. We're not going to be stampeded by the likes of Puno into agreeing," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Puno, who is the congressman from Antipolo, said last Friday that his Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party would get 195 lawmakers to sign a resolution endorsing the constituent assembly mode to amend the Charter preparatory to a shift to a parliamentary system.

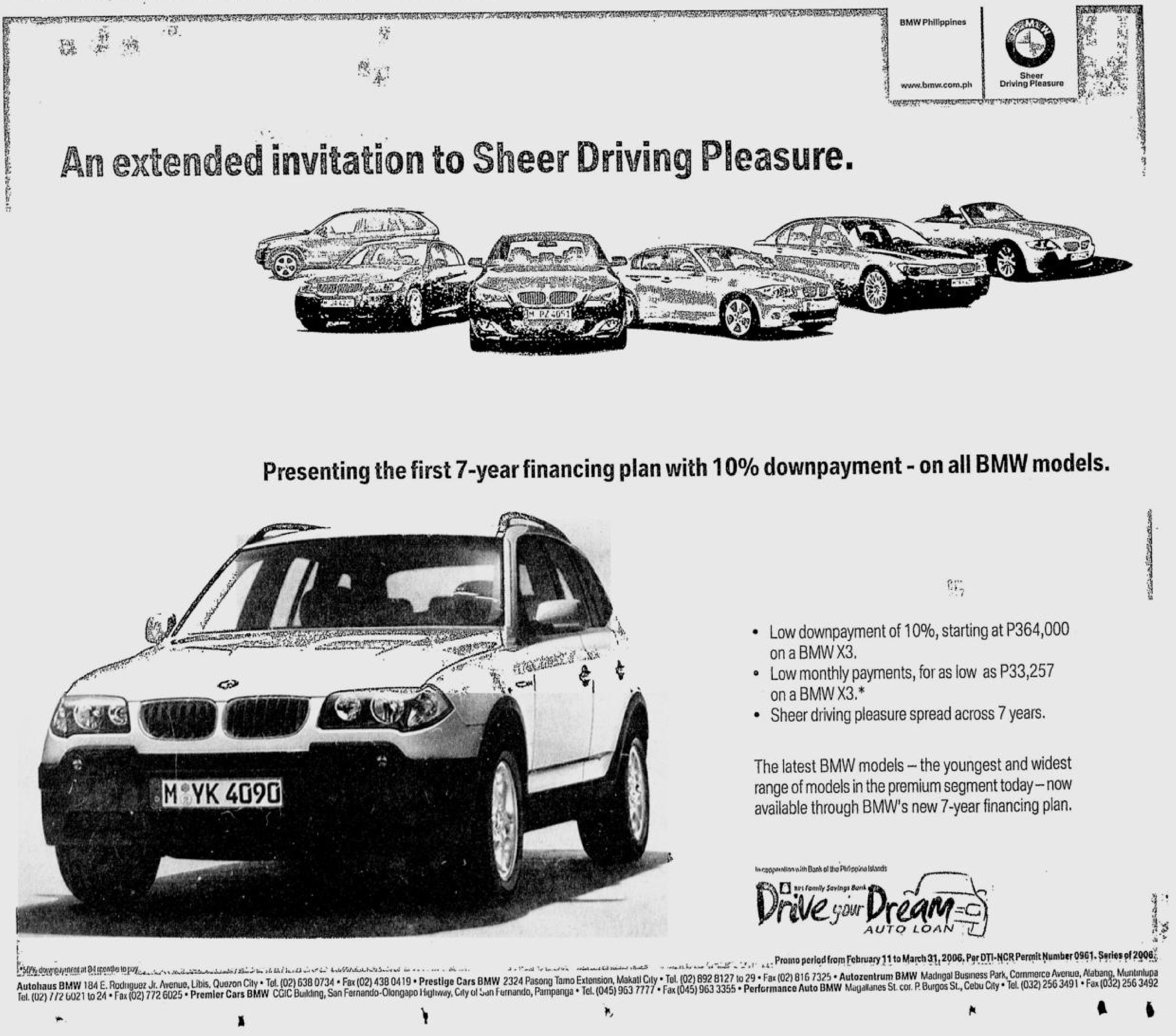
Pimentel said opposition senators were opposed to amending the Charter as they saw it as a ploy to prolong President Macapagal-Arroyo's stay in power.

"That's not going to happen. Obviously, he's not a lawyer. Even his brother (columnist Ricardo Puno) would disagree with him," said administration Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said senators have always argued that both chambers, if convened into a constituent assembly, should vote separately to amend the Constitution.

"Everyone knows that it takes two houses to amend the Charter, acting independently of each other. It's like passing a new law," he said.

Puno said he was confident Cha-cha proponents had the numbers to come up with the necessary three-fourths votes —or 195 members of both the Senate and the House voting jointly—to introduce Charter amendments. *TJ Burgonio*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Canadian envoy asks Palace to clarify position on mining

DAVAO CITY – CANADIAN AMbassador Peter Sutherland said the Philippine government should reiterate its earlier stance on opening the country's mining industry to foreign companies.

Sutherland issued the statement after receiving reports that Malacañang suspended mining activities in Bicol.

Secretary Mike Defensor, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, admitted that the government suspended the mine of Lafayette Philippines Inc. on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay because of mining spills.

"We are cracking the whip on those who are not mining responsibly," Defensor said in Pagadian City.

He said Lafayette's suspension was not in response to a call by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) urging the government to scrap the Mining Act.

The Mining Act opened the country's mining industry to foreign firms.

Defensor said the CBCP had recognized that the decision to shut down Lafayette was not an executive decision but a policy against irresponsible mining companies.

"It's very important that the government reiterates its message that the Philippines is open to foreign mining," Sutherland said.

He said that international mining companies are looking around the world for "the best place to operate" and the government's earlier policies on mining have made them feel "very welcome" in the Philippines.

At least four Canadian mining firms have been operating in the Philippines.

One of these is the Toronto Ventures Inc. (TVI), which is being opposed by some Subanen communities in Zamboanga del Norte. But other Subanen leaders also view mining as a fulfillment of their "dreams of development."

In a statement issued by the Provincial Consultative Body of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), 15 tribal leaders in the province said the entry of investors like mining companies into their ancestral lands helped paved the way for community progress. *Germelina A. Lacorte, Judy Quiros, Michael Sarcauga and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NEWSBRIEFS

PCGG: New consultation

COCONUT FARMERS MUST BE CONSULTED again on whether or not they will pursue a compromise agreement with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco on the multi-billion-peso coco levy fund. Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Narciso Nario told reporters yesterday that because of "divergent" views among farmers' groups on a settlement deal with Cojuangco, the new round of consultations must be "general." "All coconut farmers must decide once and for all. So it would be good to have a general consensus among all farmers in all coco regions of the country. Let's go at it all over again and get an overall consensus," Nario said. The Supreme Court had already decided that the coco levy funds were "prima facie" public funds. ***Alcuin Papa***

New int'l port of entry

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION YESTERDAY declared Brooke's Point town in Palawan as an international port of entry to promote cross-border trading between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. signed a memorandum order declaring Brooke's Point, 192 km south of the capital city of Puerto Princesa, open to all foreign vessels and passengers. BI boarding section chief Jose Carandang, however, explained that being a limited port, only those classified as non-restricted nationals can be admitted into Brooke's Point. A contingent of immigration officials, backed by Philippine Marines, have been deployed in the town. Brooke's Point, a first class municipality with about 50,000 residents, was named after Sir James Brooke, one of the so-called "White Rajahs" of Sarawak in Malaysia. ***Jerome Aning***

Jinggoy: It's too late

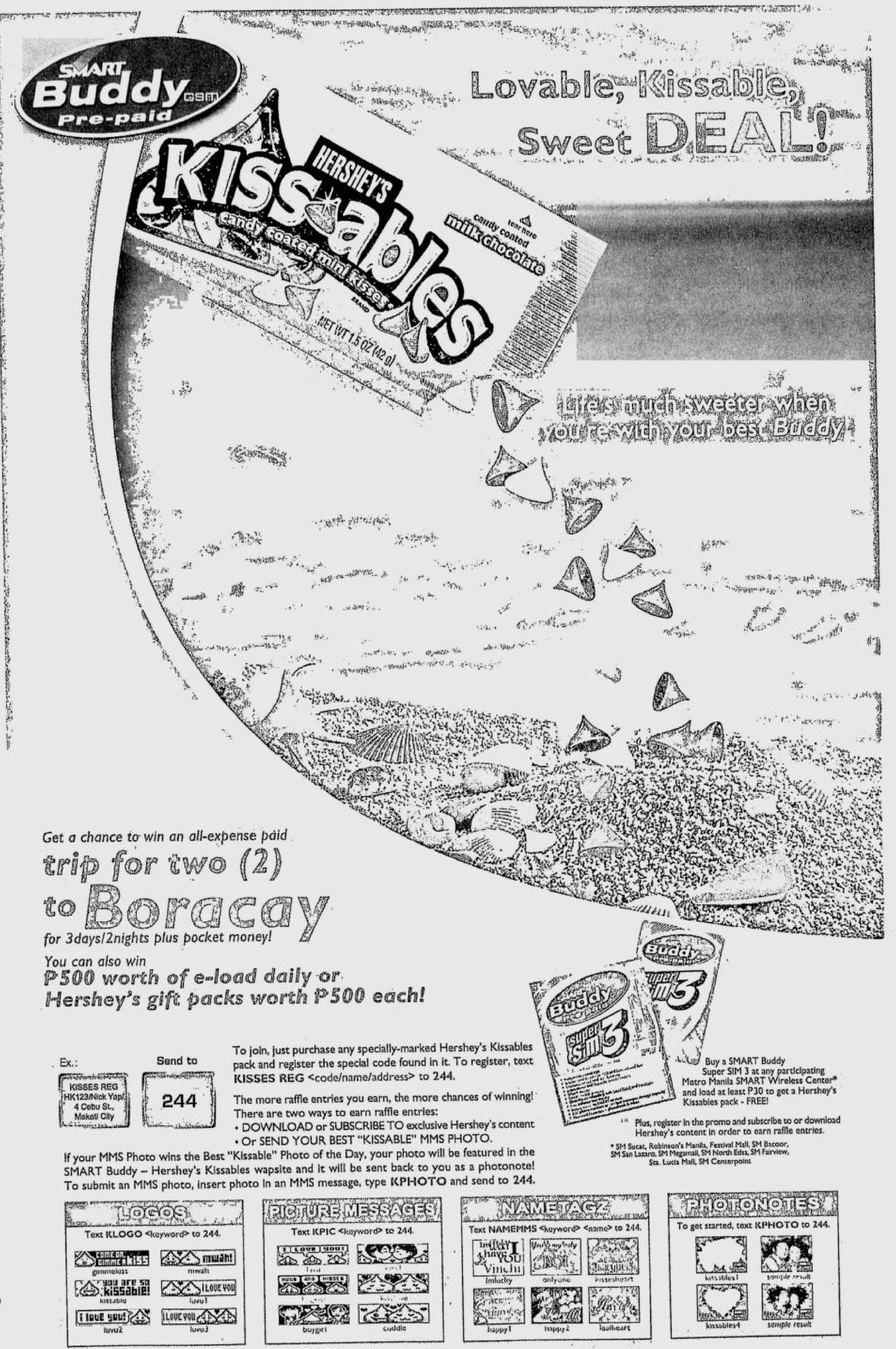
SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA YESTERDAY DISmissed administration efforts to reach out to his father, former President Joseph Estrada, and scuttle moves for a more united opposition. "It's too late," the younger Estrada said. He was reacting to Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor's statement that he would resume his role as a "bridge" to the deposed President who is under arrest on plunder charges. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

40 new judges sought

THE SUPREME COURT IS ASKING CONGRESS to create 40 positions for mobile or "judges-at-large" to help resolve cases in 651 local courts all over the country. In a letter to Rep. Simeon Datumanong, head of the justice committee of the House of Representatives, Court Administrator Presbitero J. Velasco Jr. said the new post would "improve the efficiency of the judiciary." Court records show 785,670 cases pending in the Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals, Regional Trial Courts, Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts, the Shari'a Court and all other courts in the country as of November 2005. "The creation of mobile trial courts or designation of judges-at-large is one way of addressing the problem of shortage of courts and judges in the country," Velasco said in an interview. ***Armand N. Nocum***

4 die in Caraga floods

BUTUAN CITY – AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE were killed and two others were missing after floodwaters swept 15 towns and two cities in the Caraga region, the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) reported yesterday. Salvador Estudillo, OCD-Caraga chief, said 27,789 families or about 130,786 persons, have been affected by the floodwaters following heavy rains on Tuesday. The OCD report identified the affected areas as Las Nieves, Remedios T. Romualdez, Magallanes and Jabonga in Agusan del Norte; Esperanza, San Francisco and Prosperidad in Agusan del Sur; Bislig City, and the towns of Cantilan, Tago, San Agustin, Carmen, San Miguel, Carrascal and Madrid in Surigao del Sur; and Mainit town in Surigao del Norte. ***Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***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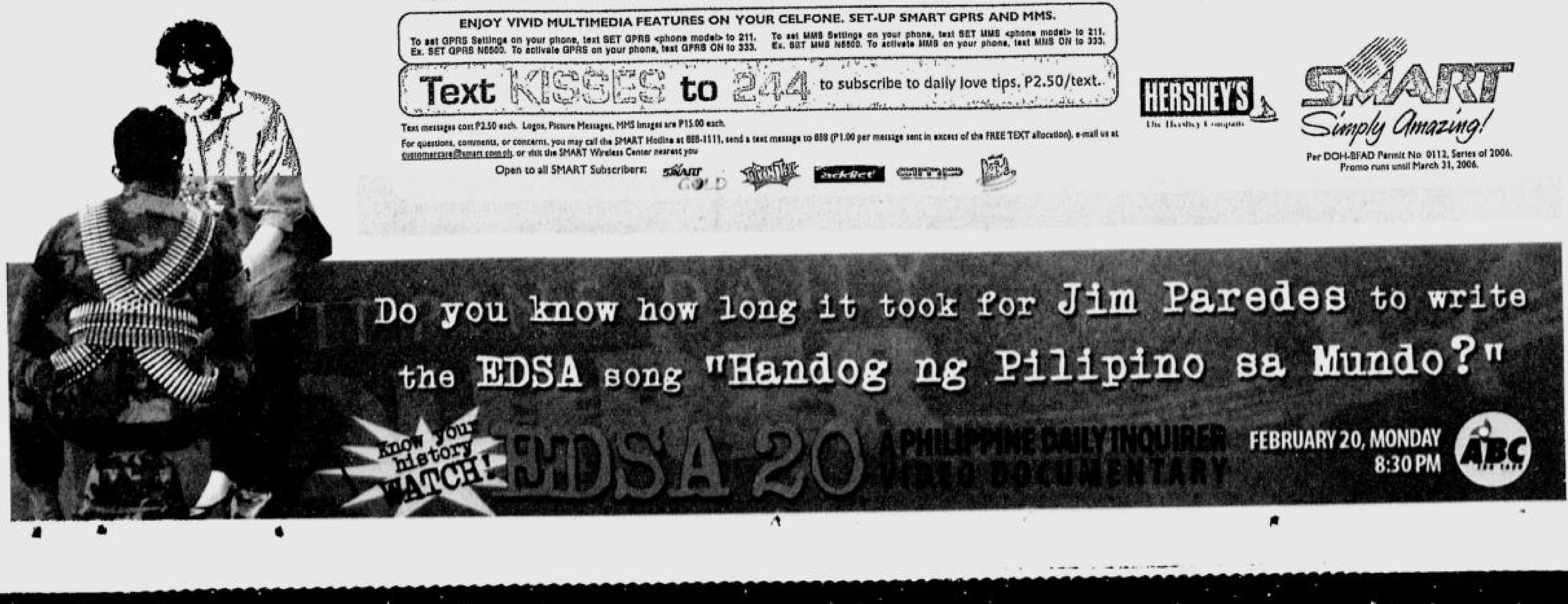
Know your history WATCH!

Do you know how long it took for Jim Paredes to write the EDSA song "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo?"

EDSA 20 A PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

FEBRUARY 20, MONDAY 8:30 PM

ABC

Ugly word war mars hero's remembrance for Javier

From page A1

QUIRER: "All that he had was his idealism and the rage to serve—
to lead our young people to a better future so they could break out of the cycle of poverty and dream of better and meaningful lives. That was all that he asked for."

At around 10 a.m. on Feb. 11, 1986, masked gunmen on board two vehicles arrived at the San Jose public plaza, where Javier was monitoring the canvassing of votes at the Antique provincial capitol.

The gunmen opened fire at Javier, who was then conferring with supporters.

Wounded in the left shoulder and leg, Javier ran to a store 200 meters away and sought cover in the toilet. But his attackers pursued him, found him, and finished him off.

Today, commemorative rites and Masses will be held in Antique's capital town of San Jose, in Manila, and in the United States where Precious and one of her two sons are now based.

But like the biblical mothers battling over a child, Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier and Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez have planned separate activities as though to claim sole right to keep the memory of Javier alive.

Javier's family, led by his brother Exequiel, has scheduled a Mass, a wreath-laying ceremony and a caravan in the Antique towns of San Jose, Hamtic and Sibalom.

The congressman said in a phone interview that the Javiers had been doing this for years until "two or three years ago, when somebody started meddling in and disrupting" the family affair.

A grander commemoration has been planned by the provincial government led by Perez, who belongs to an influential family that launched Javier's political career in 1971 and continued to support him until his assassination. It includes a Mass, a wreath-laying ceremony with a 21-gun salute, and a parade depicting the highlights of Javier's life.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, a close friend of Javier's and his colleague in the Liberal Party, and National Historical Institute executive director Ludovico Badoy will lead the unveiling and blessing of the Evelio B. Javier Historical Marker at the EBJ Freedom Plaza.

The daylong affair will also feature an amateur boxing competition, a medical mission and a concert featuring original compositions in honor of Javier.

"Evelio belongs not only to the Javier family; as a former governor, he also belongs to Antique and the nation," Perez told the INQUIRER.

Youngest governor

Javier's death ended a short but distinguished political career.

He sought the governorship and won by a landslide in 1971, becoming the Philippines' youngest governor at the age of 28.

Under his term, he initiated sustainable development projects, like the Antique Upland Development Program.

Instead of seeking reelection in 1980, Javier decided to pursue graduate studies at the JFK School of Government at Harvard University in 1981.

In 1984, he ran again for governor but lost to staunch Marcos ally Arturo Pacificador. He questioned his loss and accused his political rival of fraud.

Pacificador was tagged as the mastermind of Javier's murder. But he was acquitted on Oct. 12, 2004, after an 18-year trial.

Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12 said in a 113-page decision that the prosecution failed to prove that Pacificador had masterminded the killing.

The court, however, found Pacificador's lawyer, Avelino "Bob" Javellana, and seven others, mostly security men of Pacificador, guilty.

There are two other co-accused: Eduardo Iran alias Boy Muslim remains at large; Pacificador's son Rodolfo is still seeking political asylum in Canada.

Elusive closure

Even as closure for Javier's death remains elusive for his family and admirers, his widow said the young people of Antique should not mourn his death but fulfill his dream.

"God granted him his wish—gave him more than he asked for—meaning, fulfillment each moment of his life in public service," Precious said.

"My father died expecting justice and a just society after his death. In fact, nothing of that sort has happened," said Javier's Manila-based son, Gideon.

He lamented how his father's name had been "used by self-serving politicians."

Gideon also said his father had shown what public service was by way of self-sacrifice: "He knew he was going to be killed but instructed his people not to carry guns."

In a phone interview, Mayor Atienza recalled Javier's commitment and dedication to his mission.

"He did not want to leave Antique because he wanted to guard the results of the elections with his life," Atienza said.

Pacificador invited?

Louie Sison, president of the Evelio Javier Foundation and a classmate of the former governor at the Ateneo de Manila, said he and others would boycott the activities led by Perez because the latter had invited Pacificador to the commemoration.

"We cannot possibly go there with Pacificador around," Sison said.

But Perez said the report that she had invited Pacificador was "black propaganda" sown by Congressman Javier.

"I did not invite Pacificador, and I will never invite him," she said in a phone interview.

Pacificador himself has gone back to practicing law and is president of the Antique chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Now 75, he has not ruled out running for election again and has scoffed at the constant political bickering between Congressman Javier and Governor Perez.

Pacificador also said the majority of the people of Antique knew that he was innocent of Javier's murder.

"I maintain my stand that I can forgive those who persecuted me for 18 years. But I cannot forget," he said.

Place in history

To stress Javier's importance in the history of Antique, Perez has declared February as Evelio Javier month in the province.

She has also scheduled a week of activities that includes a symposium, the launching of the Evelio B. Javier Leadership Award and the inauguration of the Evelio Javier Museum.

The two camps will hold Masses in different churches, and will take varying parade routes.

But the two wreath-laying rites will be held at the bronze statue by Napoleon Abueva at the EBJ Freedom Plaza.

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'Bully' forces PAL to pull out of Laoag

From page A1

aviation industry.

One of them said that PAL owner and president, Lucio Tan, was so angry over Fariñas' bullying of the PAL employee, the business tycoon had ordered the indefinite suspension of the flights.

The other source said that after other PAL employees learned of their colleague's harrowing experience, nobody wanted to serve at the Laoag International Airport (LIA) anymore, leaving the airline with no choice but to suspend its operations there.

In a statement released last Thursday, PAL said that it would suspend flights to Laoag effective Feb. 13 "due to lack of staff willing to serve at the LIA."

According to INQUIRER sources, this was how the incident on the night of Feb. 3 played out:

Fariñas' wife and secretary were checking in for the PAL flight to Manila when at the counter, the CRO noticed that their plane tickets were under the names of the former mayor's daughters.

Talk to my husband

The CRO, who had only pitched in for a sick supervisor, told them this was against airline regulations, and they would not be able to take the flight.

"*Pero ang sagot ni* Mrs. Farinas, '*Kausapin mo ang asawa ko*' (But Mrs. Fariñas replied, 'Talk to my husband')," one of the sources said.

The source said the CRO "tried to be help ful" by finding ways how the tickets could be re-issued in the names of Fariñas' wife and secretary.

It didn't work out, however, the source said, because the travel agency said it could not refund tickets at the airport.

And so the source said, the CRO "was forced to talk to the (former) mayor," referring to Fariñas who was at the airport.

Troublemaker

Fariñas started to yell at the CRO, the source said. Ruben Ablan, the airport ground handler, stepped in and said, "*Akin na ito. Manggugulo 'yan* (Leave him to me. He's a troublemaker)," referring to the former mayor.

"The flight was supposed to take off; passengers had boarded. The CRO didn't really want to let the wife and the secretary board the plane, but the CRO was so scared. The two were finally allowed to board the flight," the source said.

"That was, actually, a violation," the source added.

After the two boarded, Fariñas, who was still at the airport, confronted the CRO.

Who're you gonna tell?

"*Nakita talaga niya* (CRO) *ang galit sa mukha ni* Fariñas. *Babanatan na siya* (She saw the anger in Fariñas' face. He was going to hit her)," the source said.

Allegedly, Fariñas was about to take out what looked like a gun from his back pocket. The sources, however, could not confirm this.

But both sources quoted Fariñas as saying: "*Magsusumbong ka?! Kanino ka magsusumbong dito?!* (You're going to tell on me? Who're you going to tell?!)"

Threat

Ablan again tried to pacify the former mayor but not before Fariñas threatened the CRO in Ilocano, which was later translated to "*Baka kung ano ang mangyari sa iyo sa Laoag* (Something might happen to you in Laoag)!" one of the sources said.

The source said the CRO was so terrified, knowing the influence of the Fariñas clan in the province, that PAL supervisors were immediately alerted. They, in turn, told the employee to return to Manila.

"PAL had a good passenger load on its Laoag flights," the source said, citing the business sacrifice the airline had to make because of the incident.

"It will remain suspended until further notice," the source added.

Mayor asks PAL to reconsider

In Laoag City, Mayor Michael Fariñas has asked officials of the departments of tourism and transportation to intercede on his behalf and ask PAL to reconsider suspending its Manila-Laoag-Manila flights.

The decision to cancel the flights was contained in a Feb. 9 letter sent by Francisco Ingente, PAL's vice president for airport services department, to the Laoag International Airport ground handling service department.

The letter did not say why PAL decided to suspend its flights indefinitely.

Ronald Estabillo, Laoag airport manager, said he had yet to receive an official report about what transpired on Feb. 3. Estabillo declined to confirm whether the suspension was a result of a "confrontation" between the former mayor and PAL employees here.

The former mayor is the uncle of Mayor Fariñas.

SC urged to stop . . .

From page A1

country, since the Senate has been checkmated in its committee investigations of questionable transactions and of possible criminal activity involving officials and military officers," said the senators.

"The continued implementation of the EO will cause irreparable injury to the Filipino people, since legislation and the oversight function of Congress will grind to a halt," they added.

The senators issued their plea in a seven-page "Urgent Motion to Resolve Application for Temporary Restraining Order" filed by lawyer Pacifico Agabin, the counsel of the 17 senator-complainants.

They said recent developments had shown the negative effects of the executive order.

SC hearing on Feb. 21

Apart from Drilon, the other petitioners were Senators Juan M. Flavier, Francis Pangilinan, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rodolfo Biazon, Pia S. Cayetano, Juan Ponce Enrile, Richard J. Gordon, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim, Sergio Osmeña III, Jamby Madrigal, Ralph Recto, Mar Roxas, Manuel Villar, Jinggoy Estrada and Loi Ejercito.

The senators last Oct. 11 filed before the high court a petition also asking the court to issue a TRO and declare EO 464 unconstitutional.

In that petition, they asked the court to "declare actions taken by the President under said (EO) in grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction."

The high court is yet to act on that petition. It has set a hearing for Feb. 21 to hear oral arguments on the issue.

According to the latest petition, EO 464 has already "derailed" the conduct of Senate committee investigations into the alleged wiretapping of Ms Arroyo's phone conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano; the alleged multimillion-peso fertilizer scam; and alleged multibillion-peso irregularities in the NorthRail project.

The senators said that "even legislation has ground to a halt."

They said that hearings on the General Appropriations Act of 2006 "have been blocked" after officials of the Office of the Press Secretary and the Department of Interior and Local Government failed to appear in a Feb. 8 hearing.

Commission on Appointments

"The failure of Congress to approve the budget ... will result in reenactment of the (budget) last year, and, as observed by a leading newspaper's editorial, will enable the President to realign and transfer funds from one office to another," the senators said.

They noted that even nominees for Cabinet level positions who were due for confirmation had refused to appear before the Commission on Appointments, invoking the EO.

"This will lead to another crisis in the bureaucracy, since the chair of the (CA) has threatened to reject all nominees for top Cabinet positions who refuse to appear before the (CA), and that thereafter, they will have to vacate their positions which they are temporarily occupying," the senators said.

Palace confident

Earlier yesterday, Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio said that Malacañang was confident that everything would be clear between the two branches of government the next time the Senate held hearings on the proposed budget.

"We are confident that this will have been resolved by the time the Senate holds its next scheduled budget and confirmation hearings," Claudio said in a phone interview.

A check of the Senate schedule showed that senators would resume budget hearings on Monday, with officials of the Department of Justice, National Security Council and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency lined up to defend their proposed respective budgets.

One-woman rule

Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress dismissed fears of a "one-woman rule" in the country and called for the convening of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council to head off an open conflict between Malacañang and the Senate.

"The President has never been a dictator. She knows how to listen," Isabela Rep. Rodito Albano III said. "The Palace has been calling for cooperation but it was unfortunate that some senators ... have resorted to the legislative processes as a disguise to conceal the smear campaign against her."

"Their 'one woman-rule fear' is baseless," said Albano.

He said he was optimistic the Senate-Palace rift could be resolved if both sides were open to dialogue.

"The nation will gain nothing from this rift," Albano said.

"We reiterate our call [for them] to use the Ledac as a venue to find solution to a looming Palace-Senate conflict," said Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora***

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page story—"Court allows shoe lady to travel to HK"—misspelled the name of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26's presiding judge. His name is Silvino Pampilo—not Panfilo.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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‘Media beat’ eyed to discuss how news is covered

By Alcuin Papa

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "MEDIA BEAT" covering newspapers and radio and television networks and a TV program devoted exclusively to discussing how the news is covered could be one way of maintaining excellence and ethics in media.

And keeping standards high is still the way to cater to the media's markets, rather than with the low quality programs and coverage which have long been perceived to be the reason for the "dumbing down" of Philippine society.

These were some of the more telling conclusions of the recently concluded "Media Nation 3" conference held in Clark, Pampanga, last week.

This year's conference sought to bring together the various stakeholders in Philippine media, including reporters, editors and managers of the country's top broadsheets and television and radio stations, to discuss ways to reform media for nation building. Also invited were representatives of some of the country's top advertising firms.

During the conference, advertising executives led by veterans Javier Calero and Herminio "Minyong" Ordoñez pointed out their clients "go where the ratings go."

Ordoñez suggested that media executives could still come up with good programs and projects and find "champions" in the business sector to fund them.

Calera agreed. "Look for who will go for your product. The marketing on the media side has to go out of its way to establish that clamor (for good quality programs) from the public. You can go to companies and tell them we have something here, help us. Ride with what social value you have," Calera told the INQUIRER.

Bart Guingona, a conference organizer, said the creation of a public affairs program devoted exclusively to the media was already in the works.

"It's important for the common *tao* to understand what ethical journalism is. I don't think they can distinguish ethical journalism from just entertainment. We all want to change the perspective of the majority in terms of how ethical journalism can advance the cause of nation building."

He said he had observed a "determination to continue the move to reform news media."

"I think that the initiative (to reform media) comes from the horse's mouth. It's from the practitioners themselves (who have said there is a need) to look for ways that they can practice their craft with the kind of ethical standard they aspire to. There is a renewed sense of purpose to the whole practice of journalism," Guingona said.

He said media could not just point its finger at the market and advertisers as the cause of the "dumbing down" of society.

"What we realized is that we cannot finger-point constantly and say that you are thwarted by the practice of your craft by outside forces. You cannot just say that it's the owners or the advertisers or the market. Everyone realizes that everyone has a stake in it."

Guingona agreed with Calero that media outlets should find other ways to support quality programs and projects.

"The journalist should be assisted in finding ways, without pandering to the market, to be sustainable in ways that are creative. But does sustainability mean you need to make compromises? I don't think so. All you need is to practice your craft with more creativity."

PCIJ to hold ‘Edsa 20/20’ photo exhibit

"EDSA 20/20," AN EXHIBIT OF PHOtographs and podcasts commemorating the 20th anniversary of people power, will run from Feb. 15 -26 at Glorietta I, Ayala Center in Makati.

Mounted by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), the exhibit will feature portraits of 20 people who played key roles in the Edsa revolt or whose lives were profoundly affected by the fall of Marcos. The portraits are by photographer Lilen Uy.

The exhibit will also feature podcasts containing the PCIJ's no-holds-barred interviews with Corazon Aquino, Imelda Marcos, Fidel Ramos, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan. Also featured are interviews with the likes of Bernabe Buscayno or Kumander Dante, newspaper publisher Eugenia Apostol, songwriter Jim Paredes and several others whose lives changed after Edsa.

The interviews are featured in the PCIJ's bimonthly magazine, the I Report, available in newsstands and bookstores while the podcasts can also be heard over the PCIJ Channel (www.pcij.org/blog).

The exhibit will formally open at 6 p.m. on Feb. 16. Admission is free.

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The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held on March 10-12, 2006 at the SAIDI Formation House in Antipolo City. For inquiries, call Monsignor Cesar Pagulayan at 09178508928; Willie and Aleth at (02)8005902; Merit and Bernie at 09177950682; or the Retrouvaille secretariat at (02)4107101.

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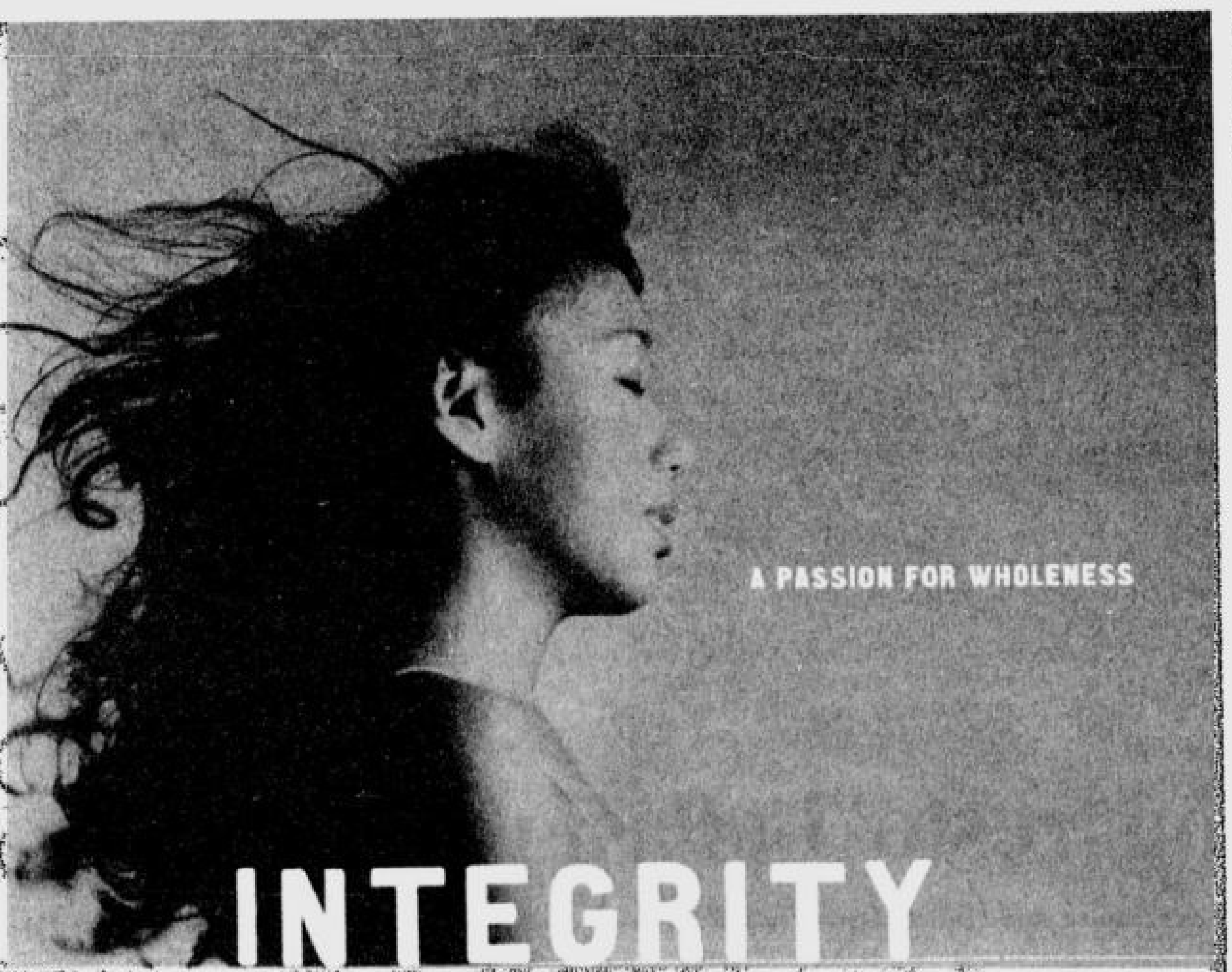

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Mike: Why Bantay Bata funds?

From page A1

Miguel Corp.—since the stampede but that all of these were voluntary and unsolicited.

"We never [announced] bank accounts where you can send donations for the victims," she said.

She also denied loose talk that ABS-CBN had been seeking donations from big advertisers, supposedly to be coursed through Bantay Bata so they could avail themselves of tax rebates.

Palma said ABS-CBN was conscious of these intrigues, which was why, she pointed out, "we didn't want to create a bandwagon by making a plug for donations to the victims."

According to Palma, PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan himself announced his P1-million cash donation during a charity event on Monday, which he gave directly to "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame.

She said Pangilinan had offered a whole package that would provide livelihood for the victims, such as cell phone E-load.

Palma said ABS-CBN had decided not to disclose the other donors until it had finalized what she termed as an "after care" program that would synchronize donations and compensation for the stampede victims and their families.

Bantay Bata began as a hotline and rescue operation in 1997. It has since evolved into a "a truly holistic system, which includes therapy, after-care and preventive programs" for child abuse victims.

Tribute to 74 dreamers

In a series of interviews last Sunday and Monday and yesterday, Revillame admitted that a number of people and corporations had promised to provide "all-out support" for the victims of the stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

On his talk show last Sunday, "The Buzz" host Boy Abunda proposed that ABS-CBN talents pool their resources for donations to the victims.

"Actually, not only ABS-CBN stars should help," Revillame said on Sunday. "In the first place, we don't need to ask for help. They are doing it on their own."

At that time, he was thinking of mounting a concert for the victims. "It will be our tribute to the 74 dreamers," he said referring to the 74 who had died. "For that concert, we can all join and help."

Revillame, who had just signed up with Smart as endorser, cited PLDT chair Pangilinan's donation of P1 million.

"I talked with both Mr. Pangilinan and Mr. Butch Jimenez (head of Smart's wireless consumer division)," Revillame said, adding:

"Mr. Pangilinan said I have his all-out support to help these people. Mr. Jimenez called me up to tell me that Smart will give me P1 million to be divided among the victims. Smart will also give away cell phones and a SIM card worth P10,000 to the families of each of those who died, so they can start their own E-Load business. I just want to give them a chance to start anew."

More donors

The others who have helped, according to Revillame, are Dr. Vicky Belo and William Lim of WL Foods.

Revillame is also the endorser of WL food products Green Peas and Corn Bits.

"Mr. Lim has always been there for me. No matter where I go, he's always there to support me," Revillame said.

"The other companies I am endorsing are also helping, like Hammerhead (T-shirts), Globe Asiatic Holdings Corp. (real estate), Rich-O (chocolate), and Sinski (Motorcycle Phils.)," he said yesterday. "I am sure there will be others."

Asked about SMC donating to the stampede fund, Revillame said: "I'm sure they'll also help. There are a lot of donors—both companies and individuals. But some donations are going straight to the ABS-CBN Foundation and Bantay Bata."

'Wowowee'

Last Monday and Tuesday, a show called "Alay sa Kapamilya" replaced "Wowowee." The special show was hosted by the likes of Abunda, Toni Gonzaga and Piolo Pascual.

Revillame's scheduled return today to "Wowowee" will not push through—"management's decision," he said yesterday.

"I am still thinking whether I would return to the show or not," he said. "I asked management for a one-month vacation, but they said that was too long. My bosses are giving me enough time to think things through. I will make my final decision next week. My contract ended on Jan. 29, and I was set to renew on Feb. 3. But at the time I was busy with the anniversary show preparations. And then the stampede happened."

Revillame expressed gratitude to fellow comic Vic Sotto, host of his show's direct competitor, "Eat Bulaga" on GMA-7.

"I want to thank him for leading a one-minute prayer for the souls of the victims," Revillame said. "In times like this, we should unite and stop quarreling. Ratings change every day... There's no need to compete. In my opinion, the more game shows and noontime shows on the air, the better, because that will help a lot of people."

3-year program for healing

Beyond seeing to the funeral arrangements and financial needs of the families of the dead—numbering, by its count, 71—ABS-CBN has also promised assistance on the long road to recovery.

The network yesterday pledged long-term support for the families of the 71, including their spiritual and emotional healing.

It has formed a new office to oversee a three-year program for the families' emotional rehabilitation, apart from providing them financial support through education and employment programs.

Fr. Carmelo Caluag, a member of ABS-CBN's board of directors, has been tapped to head the office.

"We want to respond to the victims' actual long-term needs that go beyond the financial. Money is not the only thing these people need," Caluag said.

He said the office would use psychology tools like trauma and grief counseling.

Revive dreams

A database will also be built to determine the situation and needs of each of the families to benefit from the program, he said, adding that the amount of aid and financial support would depend on each family's needs.

"Some families have a child who will need schooling, while others have fathers who don't have a job. So, we'll help them according to their needs," he said.

Caluag cited the Feb. 5 INQUIRER headline, "74 dreams crushed," and said he deemed it a challenge to make sure that the dreams of the families left behind would not be crushed as well.

Eyewitness

The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday called on eyewitnesses of the stampede to come forward and give their statements.

"We are still in need of more statements to complete the investigation," said Ruel Lasala, NBI National Capital Region chief.

Lasala said the bureau had obtained an important statement from a former NBI janitor who survived the stampede.

"Genaro Bragil's testimony is vital in the investigation because he was able to describe the situation before and during the stampede," Lasala said. *With reports from DJ Yap and Margaux C. Ortiz*

Family returns ₱49,000

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FAMILY WHO RECEIVED the P49,000 cash found on a "Wowowee" stampede victim by a volunteer rescuer brought the money to the Eastern Police District yesterday.

Police photocopied the bills and took note of the serial numbers, hoping these would finally determine who really owns the money.

On Monday, rescuer Candy Lacno turned over the money to the children of victim Aurora Soriano, 56, after tracing the family using the ID cards she found on Soriano, from whom she also got the cash.

But the children of victim Virginia Javierto, 81, had insisted that the money was their mother's.

Javierto's daughter, Estrellita Udarbe, 62, who survived the stampede, said their mother withdrew their late father's P50,000 pension from the Philippine Veterans Bank before going straight to the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City on Friday.

"We will check if these were the bills the bank had issued to Javierto," PO3 Arman Valenzuela told the INQUIRER.

Soriano's son, Lovinsky, 34, voluntarily brought the money to the EPD station, hoping to resolve the ongoing tug-of-war.

He said he and his family would cooperate in any investigation and were willing to return the money, "but only if there is enough proof [of ownership]."

Lovinsky had earlier said he believed that the money was really their mother's.

"The rescuer told us that the money was found inside [our mother's] pocket. We believe her. They even found us because of her ID cards," he said.

Feb. 4 would have been the first time for both Javierto (whose daughter Josephine also died in the stampede), and Soriano to watch "Wowowee" live. Both women were loyal followers of host Willie Revillame.

Behave like ambassadors, US Embassy warns GIs

From page A1

barred from hiring sex workers, which it said is a crime punishable under US military law.

It also said US troops participating in this year's Balikatan exercises are ordered to behave as "informal ambassadors" of their country, treat Filipinos with military courtesy whether on or off duty, and refrain from making statements or wearing clothing "which may offend a Filipino."

Also, no liberty or annual leave will be granted to US Armed Forces personnel while they are here for Balikatan 2006, the mission announced.

The embassy made the statement a day after being visited by a Philippine congressional committee pursuing the government's bid to gain custody of four US Marines charged with raping a 22-year-old Filipino woman at the Subic Freeport in November last year.

Humanitarian activities

Widely considered a test of RP-US relations, the case triggered a resurgence of anti-US sentiments as many saw it as a throwback to the years when the country hosted US military bases and American troops accused of committing crimes against Filipinos largely eluded prosecution.

The embassy tackled the matter of "sexual conduct," notably, also in the wake of media reports of how local sex workers have started "flocking" to Jolo, Sulu, regarded as a conservative Muslim town in Mindanao.

About a dozen US troops aboard a Philippine Navy vessel arrived at the Jolo pier early yesterday morning in preparation for a humanitarian mission. They unloaded a container, four Humvee vehicles, power generators and earth-moving equipment to be used by US forces later this month.

Not here for combat

Some 250 soldiers are expected to take part in the exercise, which will focus on civic works and humanitarian activities for the impoverished residents, from Feb. 20 to March 5.

Just minutes before the Americans arrived, the head of police intelligence in Jolo, Henry Elumbaring, was shot dead by a suspected Abu Sayyaf gunman as he was walking from his home just a short distance from the gates of the national police camp.

His assailant fled into a nearby housing area, evading police who gave chase.

Capt. Leo Lebriech, head of the US mission, stressed that the US forces would not be in Jolo for combat operations, saying "we are here for the humanitarian mission and engineering capabilities and nothing else."

While the Americans and their equipment were taken to Philippine military camps, videoke bars featuring scantily dressed women had sprouted near the area, the INQUIRER reported on Tuesday, quoting a local official.

Most of the sex workers were young and had come from Pagadian City, Dipolog City and Zamboanga City, the report added.

Wings clipped

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, co-chair of the Legislative Oversight committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement (Lovfa), said that because of the rape case, "the American military has become more strict about the liberty of their soldiers, especially when it comes to looking for [sex workers]."

The US military had issued General Order Number One for the RP-US Balikatan exercises this year which prohibits American soldiers to leave their camps in the Philippines.

"One dire result of this rape case is that there is a general order for Balikatan 2006 that there will no longer be any leave or liberty for American soldiers. They will no longer be allowed to leave their military camps," Santiago said.

"They will no longer be allowed to go out while they're in the country. They'll only be doing full-duty work while they're here," said Sen. Richard Gordon, a Lovfa member.

Lovfa members on Thursday morning visited the four Marines who are under guard at the US Embassy.

Santiago explained that in every scheduled Balikatan exercise, the US military issues a general order that states what American soldiers can and cannot do while they are in the Philippines.

Not even merienda

"This general order [for 2006] means that they can no longer buy T-shirts or merienda [from Filipinos] wherever they are assigned in the country," she said.

Santiago also pointed out that US President George W. Bush in September 2005 made it a crime under American law for US soldiers to look for sex workers.

The Lovfa members met for about an hour with the four US Marines—Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier, 27; Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, 20; Dominic Duplantis, 21, and Keith Silkwood, 23—and were surprised by the soldiers' youth.

Motions denied

IN OLONGAPO CITY, THE judge hearing the rape case against the four American soldiers denied two motions for reconsideration filed by the lawyer of one of the accused and by the prosecution.

Judge Renato Dilag yesterday denied the motion filed by the lawyer of Lance Corporal Daniel Smith that asked the court to find probable cause in the charge of rape by calling on the 22-year-old complainant, as well as to recall the arrest warrant.

The second request was rendered "moot and academic" when he withdrew the arrest order in January.

"The painstaking recital and analysis of the parties' evidence made by the investigating officers satisfied this court that there is probable cause to issue warrants of arrest against the respondents," the order said.

Dilag said several Supreme Court decisions had made unnecessary the request that he make a determination of the woman's allegations by summoning her for an interview.

He said the judge could rely on evidence and affidavits submitted.

Dilag also turned down the motion of the prosecutors to reinclude driver Timoteo Soriano Jr. in the case because he was not convinced by the argument of the prosecutors led by Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni.

Dilag said Jalandoni's team could file a similar motion if new evidence showed that Soriano really conspired with the soldiers in abusing the woman inside a moving van at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, 2005.

Through their lawyers, the three other accused—Carpentier, Silkwood and Duplantis—have asked the Department of Justice to review the prosecutors' Dec. 27, 2005 resolution.

The resolution was the basis for charging them with rape and conspiracy. *With reports from Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk and AFP*

One-stop shabu 'resto' in Pasig raided

From page A1

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao on seeing the place.

Inside the 600-sq.-meter compound—just half a kilometer away from the Pasig City Hall and the Eastern Police District—were shanties serving as "one-stop-shop *shabu* restaurants."

Second black eye

At the "restaurant," drug users could rent *shabu* paraphernalia and order grams of *shabu*.

The raid was the second black eye in a week for Pasig. Last Saturday, 74 people died in a stampede of television noon show fans in the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in the city.

"I can't believe this," Lomibao told reporters as he surveyed the 30 to 40 shanties enclosed in the compound surrounded by iron sheets on F. Soriano Street.

Following a tip from an informant, more than 150 policemen from the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Special Action Force barged into the compound shortly before noon.

First of its kind

In almost every shanty, they seized drug paraphernalia, packs of suspected *shabu* powder and plastic bags filled with peso bills and coins.

The number of people rounded up were so many that the policemen just used straws and plastic cords in tying them up.

"This is unprecedented. This is the first of its kind," Task Force chief Director Marcelo Ele said, adding the drug dens could have been operating for more than a year round the clock.

In a surveillance before the raid, agents monitored at least 100 people going into the compound in just a span of five minutes, showing the magnitude of the illegal operations.

Ele added that pushers could also be going inside to buy *shabu* in bulk.

The rules

The narrow entrance to the compound was usually manned by four men, armed with guns. Just a few meters away was a notice on a plywood, calling the place: "Shabu Shabu Restaurant."

An instruction in Filipino written in chalk on the plywood read: "No loitering here."

The sign also said in Filipino:

- Pickpockets are not allowed here.
- Those who will not pay will be punished:

- First offense: Confinement in the toilet for one week.
- Second offense: P1,000 fine
- Third offense: You will be turned into a dart board.

"Someone will assist you named JR and Jegs," the sign also said.

Entrance fees

Many of those rounded up were dressed in shorts and T-shirts and wore slippers.

The place had an entrance fee of P10 per person. For a group of five people, the entrance fee was P30.

Once inside the compound, customers could choose which shanty to use. Some of the hovels, with curtained doors, measured four square meters.

A wooden table stood at the center of each shanty. Users could rent tooters, aluminum foils and buy drugs per gram.

Users are fondly called "scorers," a 12-year-old girl, who said she had been living in the compound for almost a decade, told the INQUIRER.

The drug dens served also as houses, some equipped with air-conditioners, television sets, DVD players and refrigerators.

A happy place

A 54-year-old woman, who ran a canteen inside the compound, said the "*shabu* restaurants" had been operating for almost a year.

"I have been advising them to stop. I cannot do much, because I also fear for my life and the lives of my children," the woman said.

The compound looked like a happy community, with residents calling the place as "Sitio Mapayapa (Peaceful)."

In the middle of the crowded compound stood a billiard hall, with wooden posts decorated with posters of sexy women.

Palace operatives said they received a tip about the drug dens inside the compound only last week. Surveillance confirmed the information, Chief Insp. Roderick Mariano said.

The operatives burst in armed with a warrant from a Quezon City judge.

Flea market of drugs

Ele said the community appeared to have either tolerated the drug activity or was involved in maintaining it.

"In my entire career as an officer, I have never seen anything like it," Ele said.

Those who were rounded up were brought to Camp Crame for drug testing.

Besides being investigated for possible negligence or connivance with the drug dens' operators, the sacked precinct policemen will also undergo retraining, officials said.

The ax also fell on the Pasig police anti-narcotics team for failing to detect what Director Vidal Querol called "a flea market of illegal drugs activity."

Lomibao specifically ordered the relief of precinct commander Senior Insp. Salvador de la Cruz.

Multibillion-peso industry

Called "the poor man's cocaine," *shabu* is regarded as the top choice of Filipino drug users followed by marijuana.

The Philippines is one of the world's three largest producers of methamphetamine, or *shabu*, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The UNODC report said the main production sites in Asia were in China, Burma and the Philippines.

An earlier UNODC report based on 2000 figures showed that 2.8 percent of Filipinos aged 15 to 24 were *shabu* users.

In 2003, UNODC said Filipinos were the world's fourth biggest consumers of amphetamine and methamphetamine, based on population percentage.

In the Philippines, illegal drugs have become a P216-billion to P432-billion industry. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto, PDI Research*

Peso highest in 3½ years

From page A1

area and their favorable implications for the budget and government debt in the future," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"The action is in line with market sentiment and expectations," he added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 1.64 points to 2,085.29. A total of 1.54 billion shares worth P1.1 billion changed hands.

Fund managers and currency traders said the S&P action allowed them to shrug off the less favorable verdict by Moody's which maintained its "negative" outlook on the Philippines.

Philippine sovereign bonds prices rose by a point and a half after the S&P issued its report Thursday night but pared its gains by half a point yesterday.

"The market tried to push higher today, but was met by profit taking... Basically we were up by one point after the outlook upgrade," a Manila-based trader said.

US DOLLAR
BUYING RATE
P55.20
AS OF AUGUST 26

THE PESO traded at P55.20 to a dollar as of Aug. 26, 2003.

Tightest spreads

Philippine 2016 bonds were quoted at 106.25/106.625 in price terms, while 2031 bonds were at 99.875/100.125.

Philippine credit default swap levels (the risk premium demanded by investors investing in IOUs) dropped to 205 basis points over the benchmark US Treasuries or less than half its level of 485 basis points a year ago.

More investments, jobs

"With the tightest spreads enjoyed by Philippine bonds at their all-time low, who can doubt where the market is placing its bets. The market has seen a lot of evidence and priced all of this in," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves welcomed the S&P upgrade, saying this would translate into more investments, reduced capital costs and more jobs.

"We'll work even harder to sustain the momentum we achieved," he said.

"We'll concentrate on our revenue collection efforts so that we can successfully achieve our 2006 GDP (gross domestic product) growth target of 5.7 percent while staying within our target deficit of P125 billion," Teves said.

Fiscal improvements

But S&P said the government must sustain fiscal improvements, adding "this will require ongoing political commitment, effective implementation and administration of the VAT and continued reduction of tax evasion."

It added the rating could improve further if government revenues increase and if public sector reforms, like the privatization of the electricity sector, are pushed through and bring down government debt.

S&P lowered its credit rating on the Philippines by one notch in January 2005, citing a chronic budget deficit and delays in government legislation to raise tax revenues through Congress.

On Thursday, Moody's took a different tack from S&P by keeping a negative outlook on the Philippines, saying further fiscal reform will be needed to bring down exceptionally high public-sector debt.

Moody's ignored

But foreign and local investors ignored Moody's move to maintain its negative outlook in the Philippines as the peso continued to seek higher ground while yields on Philippine bonds narrowed further.

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer of ING Philippines, said investors had already factored in Moody's less favorable outlook on the country.

"The S&P upgrade was the one that investors were really pricing in terms of (sovereign credit) spreads which have further tightened," Garcia said.

Garcia said further improvement in the ratings outlook could happen in the second half of the year once the government was able to deliver projected revenues from the VAT.

Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. Philippines treasury head Jose Arnulfo Veloso said Moody's decision was "unbelievable" considering that the two factors—rising political concerns and delay in the value-added tax implementation—it cited when it downgraded the country's rating last year have been resolved.

Being kind, being honest

"Not only is the expanded VAT in place, the government has already raised the VAT rate to 12 percent. There is obviously lesser political noise now than before, so what else does Moody's want before it changes its outlook?" Veloso said.

"Perhaps, Moody's was just being honest. Standard and Poor's was being kind," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities Inc. of the different rating actions.

Cruz said the government believes that "the S&P assessment is closer to market valuation."

A treasurer at a local bank said market sentiment remained positive, although there were still concerns on whether the government could indeed meet its key fiscal targets given an early underperformance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"The market will believe what it wants to believe ... I think S&P is a notch more respectable," the treasurer said.

The financial markets are next looking at London-based Fitch Ratings, which is expected to come up with its latest assessment on the Philippines in the next few days.

Palace positive

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government was taking the mixed outlook by the two agencies "on the positive side."

"We are off to a good start and all we have to do is sustain our focus and keep on track with our economic blueprint," he said.

He added the world was watching the movement of the economy and "not the noise of Philippine politics."

The contrasting outlooks were greeted with jubilation and dismay by lawmakers.

One lawmaker said the mixed reviews may have something to do with the lingering political crisis gripping the nation.

Rep. Jesli Lapus (Nationalist People's Coalition, Tarlac), chair of the House committee on ways and means, said he didn't expect all rating agencies to immediately give a positive outlook on the country now amid the political noise.

"Some of them may continue with a wait-and-see attitude on the implementation of the reformed expanded value-added tax and other reforms and on where the new revenues will be allocated," said Lapus, the House's in-house tax expert who steered the passage in the chamber of VAT last year.

Lapus said Moody's rating "serves as a challenge even as we dispute its conclusions for overlooking the dramatic improvements in our fiscal status."

He said Moody's apparently ignored the "actual highest regard" the financial markets had given the country via the recent "oversubscribed (700 percent) Philippine bond and the bullish outlook of fund managers."

"What if we can collect the projected VAT revenues? Would they maintain their very conservative outlook?" Lapus asked.

Lapus remained optimistic that Moody's would eventually follow S&P and give a positive assessment of the country's prospects.

Good start

Federico Sandoval II (LP, Malabon-Navotas), vice chair of the committee on appropriations, said the S&P's positive rating was a good start after the country suffered credit rating downgrades last year.

"The country will hopefully get the nod of all the other agencies in the next rating period. But this still depends on how government will sustain the implementation of eVAT and other reforms as well as on where the revenues will be spent," he said.

Sandoval said local and foreign businessmen were now upbeat with the local economy despite the continuing political noise.

"If this continues as well as the peso uptrend, we will surely get favorable assessment from all the rating agencies. We must continue our hard work and sacrifice to achieve our desired revenues so we can ease the deficit problem and provide better and more services to the people," he said.

S. Korean wives grumble, French sexed up on sex life

From page A1

The survey released this week by the pharmaceutical firm Eli Lilly and Co., one of the makers of the anti-impotence drug Cialis, of 1,200 married men and women in South Korea, Japan, France and the United States also found the French had the best sex lives followed by the Americans.

Lilly Korea said the findings would be released globally next week ahead of Valentine's Day.

Less than one in three South Korean women said they were at least "slightly happy" about sex with their husbands, which was the lowest of the four groups of women.

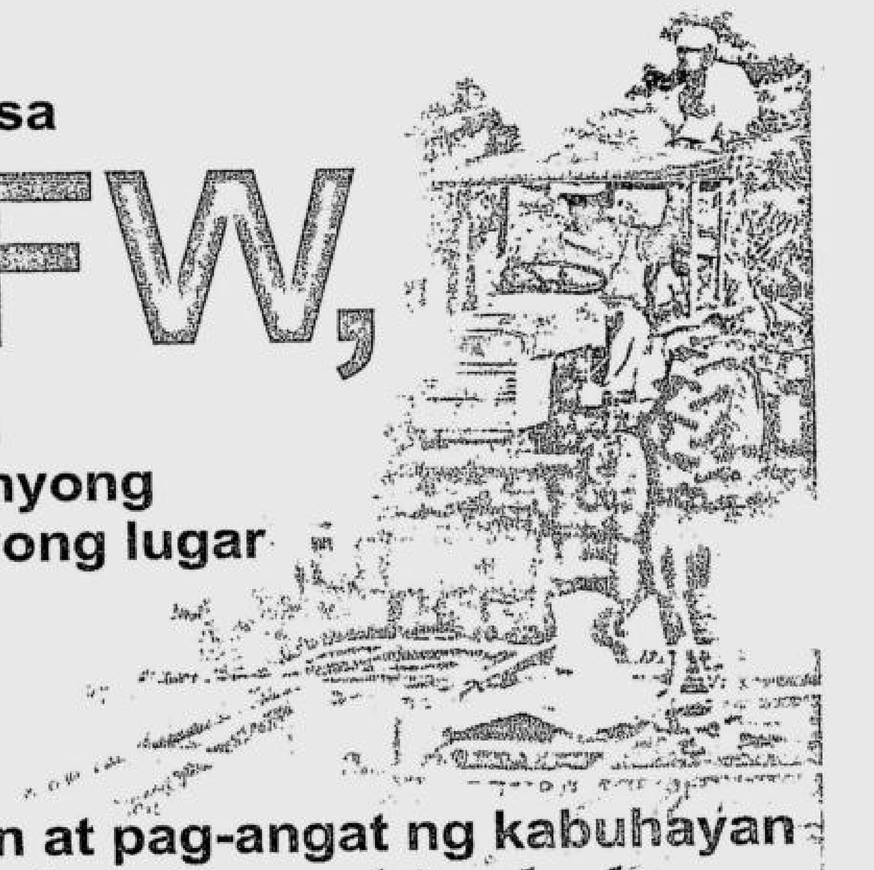
About half the South Korean men, however, said they were satisfied in bed with their wives.

"Not often enough" topped the list of complaints by men in all four countries while the main complaint of wives was not enough romance.

Less than one in three Japanese men said they would seek help for erectile dysfunction, which was the lowest among the four groups of men, the survey said.

Less than one in 10 French men had any complaints about sex, which was also the lowest.

Reuters



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Hamas joins call for calm

100 suicide bombers volunteer, says Taliban head

DOHA—THE RADICAL PALESTINIAN group Hamas has joined calls for calm amid international furor sparked by cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, as a Taliban commander in Afghanistan said 100 suicide bombers had volunteered.

Hamas "is prepared to play a role in calming the situation between the Islamic world and Western countries on condition that these countries commit themselves to putting an end to attacks against the feelings of Muslims," the organization's leader Khaled Meshaal told a news conference Thursday.

His conciliatory tone came a day after he warned the Western press was "playing with fire" by publishing the cartoons which have led to riots around the world.

As Muslim protests over the cartoons subsided on Thursday, a Taliban commander in Afghanistan warned that 100 militants had enlisted as suicide bombers and Denmark said it feared for the safety of its troops in Iraq.

Mullah Dadullah, one of the Taliban's most senior military commanders, said his Islamic extremist group had also offered a reward of 100 kilograms of gold to anyone who killed people responsible for the drawings.

Meanwhile, Afghan authorities arrested more than 40 Pakistani workers for inciting violence Wednesday during a protest against the cartoons in which four people were killed.

The deaths in Qalat raised the death toll to 11 in five days of protests in Afghanistan against the cartoons. Two people have also died in protests in Somalia and Lebanon.

The cartoons, including one showing the Prophet Muhammad with a bomb in his turban, were first published in the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten in September, but have since been widely reprinted.

The newspaper's chief editor, Carsten Juste, said Thursday the culture editor who had decided to publish the cartoons, Flemming Rose, had been sent on holiday for an indefinite period "because nobody can bear the weight that is on his shoulders," according to the online edition of the Danish daily Politiken.

Most Danes hold Muslim religious leaders responsible for the furor over the cartoons, according to a poll published in Denmark Thursday.

A total of 58 percent of respondents to the tMegafon poll blamed the imams while 22 percent placed the responsibility on the Jyllands-Posten daily.

A further 11 percent put the blame on Middle East governments. *AFP*

PERFECT SON
Roy and Eloysa Vasquez show off their new son, Timothy, January 2006. Vasquez, 38, suffers from Type 3 osteogenesis imperfecta, a disorder that makes bones soft and easily broken. Her tiny, distorted body left little room for a fetus to grow. Vasquez suffered two miscarriages before doctors at Stanford delivered Timothy by Cesarean section on Jan. 24. AP

Suicide attack, shooting, kill 35 in Pakistan

HANGU, PAKISTAN—AT LEAST 35 PEOPLE were killed and dozens wounded in Pakistan on Thursday in a suicide bombing on a Shiite Muslim procession and subsequent violence on the holiest day of the year for the religious minority.

The bombing targeted a procession in the town of Hangu in North West Frontier Province to mark Ashura, the end of 10 days of mourning for Shiites. Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao said there had been three blasts.

Pakistan has suffered Islamist sectarian violence for years, most of it directed by majority Sunni Muslims against Shiites.

Analysts say that in recent years attacks by Sunni groups linked to al-Qaida have appeared to have a broader aim of destabilizing the rule of President Pervez Musharraf and his alliance with Washington in the US-led war on terrorism. *Reuters*

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Carroll on video asking people to do whatever is needed to get her released. AP

US hostage Carroll appeals for help in video

KUWAIT—AN AMERICAN journalist held hostage in Iraq for more than a month appeared in a new video tape aired on a private Kuwaiti TV station on Thursday appealing for help in securing her release.

Jill Carroll, 28, was wearing a headscarf and appeared in good health in the brief video aired by Al Rai TV.

"I'm here with the mujahideen. I sent you a letter written by hand. I'm here, I'm fine. Please just do whatever they want," she said. "Give them whatever they want as quickly as possible. There is very short time. Please move fast."

She said the video had been recorded on Feb. 2, but did not say what was in the letter that the TV station received along with the tape.

Jassem Boodai, the chair of Al Rai TV, told Reuters that the station did not plan to broadcast the contents of the letter. "Because of the sensitive matters mentioned in it, we handed it over to Kuwaiti authorities," he said.

Carroll, a freelance journalist working for the Christian Science Monitor, was abducted in Baghdad on Jan. 7 by militants who also killed her Iraqi interpreter.

The newspaper said it wanted more information about the letter. "It is always difficult to see someone speaking under coercion and under these circumstances," Richard Bergenheim, editor of The Christian Science Monitor, said in a statement.

"We are seeking more information about the letter that Jill refers to in the video. We remain in constant contact with Jill's family and are still doing everything possible to obtain Jill's release," he added.

She had last appeared in a video aired on the Qatar-based Al Jazeera television on Jan. 30 in which she appealed to fellow Americans to press for the release of Iraqi women held by US-led forces. *Reuters*

Experts fear bird flu spreading rapidly days after Nigeria outbreak

JAJI, NIGERIA—THE MYSTERIOUS mass deaths of chickens in northern Nigeria fueled fears on Thursday the H5N1 avian flu virus was spreading rapidly just days after it was first detected in Africa.

The World Health Organization said Africa was at high risk of widespread outbreaks in birds. It rolled out an immediate public education campaign, piggybacking it on a polio vaccination program, to warn people how to avoid becoming infected with the often deadly virus.

Bird flu has killed at least 88 people and infected 165 since it reemerged in late 2003, most of the victims in east Asia. Indonesia said two women in their 20s had tested positive for the virus and were being treated at a specialist Jakarta hospital, while the WHO confirmed an 11th case in China.

The World Health Organization and other experts say H5N1 is poised to mutate into a form that passes easily from person to person. If it does, it could spark a human influenza pandemic in which millions could die.

The virus has been spreading steadily westward, killing or forcing the slaughter of more than 200 million birds. It occasionally infects people and killed four children in an outbreak in eastern Turkey last month and claimed the life of a teenager in Iraq.

This week, it was found in poultry in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. Many observers say African countries lack the health and disease control systems to contain the virus.

"The single most important public health priority at this stage is to warn people about the dangers of close contact with sick or dead birds infected with H5N1," WHO Director General Dr. Lee Jong-wook said in a statement posted on WHO's website at http://www.who.int.

"Experience in Asian countries and most recently in Turkey underscores the fact that immediate, clear public information is critical to help protect human health," Lee added.

"The home slaughter and consumption of birds which appear to be sick is high-risk behavior. Ideally, people culling and disposing of birds should have protective equipment."

WHO said a campaign already under way in Nigeria to vaccinate children against polio would be used to help monitor for human bird flu cases and to help coordinate containment, treatment, and laboratory work.

"African health systems are already struggling to cope with children and adults suffering from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, respiratory infections and other infectious conditions," WHO noted.

Nigeria's Agriculture Ministry said 45,000 chickens had died in Kaduna state in the north of the country, and confirmed cases of H5N1 had also been found at three farms in neighboring states.

At the battery farm where the first H5N1 sample was taken, outside Jaji village in Kaduna state, 15 big concrete hangars used as chicken pens were empty on Thursday and workers said all the birds had died about a month ago. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID WAREHOUSING SERVICES FOR NFA CEBU

LEASE OF THE AGGREGATE AREA BALANCE OF 4,065.15 SQ. METERS FOR GRAINS WAREHOUSE STORAGE SPACE

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006*, intends to apply the sum of **PESOS: THREE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY THREE (Ps. 3,333,423.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the lease of the aggregate area balance of 4,065.15 sq. meters for grains warehouse storage space for NFA Cebu City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential bidders to apply first for the accreditation of the warehouse(s) intended to be leased as grains warehouse storage space for NFA Cebu City prior to the issuance of Bidding Documents.

Interested Bidders shall submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to the BAC Secretariat together with the following warehouse accreditation requirements: a) Proof of Warehouse Ownership, b) Floor Plan of Warehouse, and c) Location Map/Sketch Plan.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Banilad, Cebu City.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will issue the complete set of Bidding Documents only to prospective bidders who had been issued a Notice of Warehouse Accreditation by BAC and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (Ps. 3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138).

Following is the schedule of bidding activities:

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE (Date/Time)
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	Feb. 11, 2006 - Feb. 19, 2006
2. Issuance of Notice of Accreditation/Non-Accreditation and Issuance of Bidding Documents	Feb. 11, 2006 - Feb. 20, 2006
3. Pre-Bidding Conference	Feb. 21, 2006 @ 10:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	March 06, 2006 @ 10:00 AM

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
Cash/Cashier's/Manager's Check Payable to NFA issued by a reputable Commercial Bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their respective representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Availability of the leased warehouse is required upon receipt of Notice to Occupy until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of withdrawal of stocks by NFA whichever is applicable.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Banilad, Cebu City
Tel. No. 032-232-1939 / Fax No. 032-233-6095
Email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
Website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
RBAC Chairman / ARD

(PDI - Feb. 11 & 18, 2006)

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

AMENDMENT

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines

Construction of Concrete Overpasses in the Provinces of Bataan and Tarlac

The **Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA)**, through the BCDA 2006 Corporate Funds intends to apply the corresponding sum listed hereunder being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Name of Project	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Funds
Construction of Concrete Overpasses	Construction of the following: Ligaya Overpass (Tarlac) Tinang Overpass (Tarlac) Pilabunan Overpass (Tarlac) Sto. Nino Overpass (Tarlac) Hacienda Luisita1 (Tarlac) San Ramon Overcrossing Bridge (Bataan) Maite Overcrossing Bridge (Bataan)	P146,000,000.00	Corporate Funds

BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of Concrete Overpasses. **Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license of AT LEAST AA, LARGE A**, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on **20-22 February 2006, 8:00am to 5:00pm** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents **07 March 2006, 3:00PM** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. corner 2nd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before **07 March 2006, 3:00PM**.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on 15 March 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on **15-17 March 2006, 8:00am to 5:00pm**.

BCDA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **21 March 2006, 10:00am**, at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **10:00 am of 06 April 2006**.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

a. Cash, managers check, cashiers' check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract.
b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract.
c. Surety Bond from a reputable insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract.

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **10:30am of 06 April 2006** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the aforementioned address on **10:30am of 06 April 2006**.

ompletion of the Works is required by a total of One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GEN NARCISO L. ABAYA (RET.) – President and CEO
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Telephone Number (632) 816-6666 Telfax No. (632) 816-0996
Website: www.bcda.gov.ph

This Notice amends the previously advertised **Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid published on 20** January 2006 and 02 February 2006 advertised in the paper.

VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman - BAC for SCTEP

(PDI - Feb. 11 & 17, 2006)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO ELECTRONIC BIDDING OF SMALL WATER METERS

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested Suppliers/Manufacturers to participate in the **Electronic Bid** for the supply and delivery of various sizes of Water Meters sizes 15mm to 40mm with brass tailpiece, based on the latest MWSI Technical Specification Section 32016 Rev. 03/02 Dec. 05. Indicated below are the list of items for bidding:

No.	Qty.	Description
1	53,629 pcs.	Water Meter size: 15mm
2	2,016 pcs.	Water Meter size: 20mm
3	125 pcs.	Water Meter size: 25mm
4	73 pcs.	Water Meter size: 40mm

Interested suppliers may, beginning February 13, 2006 to February 15, 2006 obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualifications forms, technical specifications and terms and conditions **upon payment of the non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (P2,000.00)**. The documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City. Telephone Nos. 435-3366/435-3374; Fax No. 928-2303.

Bidders are also required to pay a non-refundable amount of Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000) for the meter testing fee. Payment can be made either through cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

The Electronic Bidding, scheduled on **March 06, 2006, (Monday) 10:00 AM**, will be held at Bayantrade's Office (24/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City). Only the pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to participate in the E-Bidding event.

(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.

(PDI-Feb. 11, 2006)

Bush says another 9/11-type plot thwarted

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush has unveiled new details about an alleged Sept. 11th-style al-Qaida plot to crash a hijacked airliner into the tallest building in Los Angeles in 2002.

On Thursday, Bush credited robust cooperation between the United States and its allies in Southeast Asia for dismantling the operation, and said global pressure had left Osama bin Laden's terrorism network "weakened and fractured" and short of cash.

The White House had described the plot—which targeted the 310-meterUS Bank Tower, also known as Library Tower—in October 2005, but Bush disclosed an unprecedented amount of newly declassified information.

The disclosure came amid negotiations with Congress over renewal of the controversial USA Patriot Act. Republican and Democratic leaders announced Thursday that they had agreed to extend it.

Bush said Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—sometimes called the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks—planned to have terrorists hijack an airplane, use shoe bombs to breach the cockpit doors and fly the jet into the building.

Bush said that instead of using Arab hijackers, as in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the plot called for "young men from Southeast Asia whom he believed would not arouse as much suspicion."

The operatives met with Bin Laden before beginning their preparations for the attack, which started to unravel in early 2002 when "a Southeast Asian nation" caught a key al-Qaida operative, said Bush.

The president did not name the operative or the country.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's key co-conspirator was Hambali, a leader of the al-Qaida affiliate Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), said Bush. The plotters were captured in 2003 in Pakistan and Thailand, respectively.

White House counterterrorism adviser Frances Townsend said that all four members of the cell have been caught, but declined to name the two South Asian countries and two Southeast Asian countries that helped foil the plot.

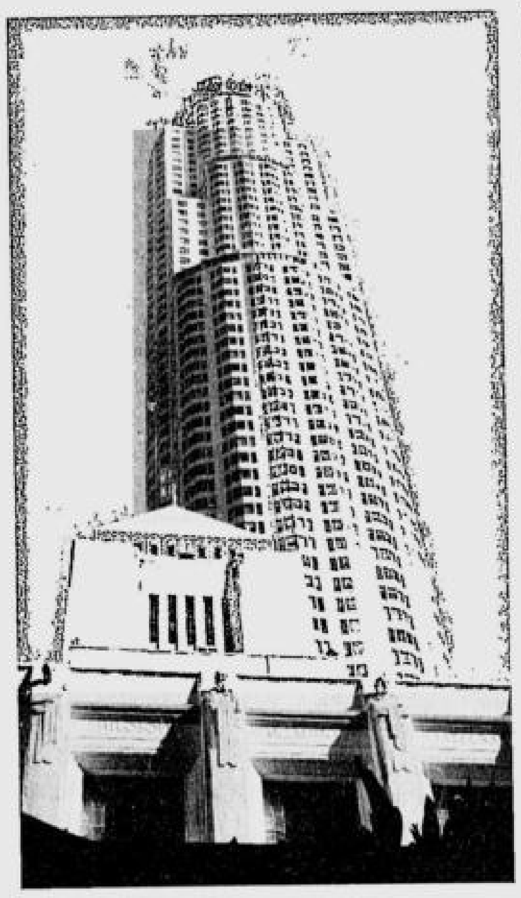
She told reporters on a conference call that the four traveled to Afghanistan, where they swore an oath of loyalty to Bin Laden, but declined to spell out how far along the plot had gone before being disrupted.

Bush said that "subsequent debriefings and other intelligence operations made clear the intended target and how al-Qaida hoped to execute it" and led the United States and its partners to catch the conspirators.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan denied any linkage between the new details and Bush's aggressive campaign to defend his secret domestic spying program, which some lawmakers have called illegal.

But McClellan said the administration had worked to declassify the new material "probably at least three weeks"—right as the controversy over the warrantless surveillance mushroomed.

The president said the plot and the way it was thwarted highlighted the nature of the global war on terrorism and especially the importance of robust international cooperation. *AFP*



PURPORTED TARGET—The US Bank Tower, formerly known as the Library Tower, is shown behind the central Los Angeles Library in downtown Los Angeles, Feb. 9. AFP

Abramoff says he met Bush many times

WASHINGTON — Jack Abramoff said in correspondence made public on Thursday that President George W. Bush met him "almost a dozen" times, disputing White House claims Bush did not know the former lobbyist at the center of a corruption scandal.

"The guy saw me in almost a dozen settings, and joked with me about a bunch of things, including details of my kids. Perhaps he has forgotten everything, who knows," Abramoff wrote in an e-mail to Kim Eisler, national editor for the Washingtonian magazine.

Abramoff added that Bush also once invited him to his Texas ranch.

The messages were made public by the American Progress Action Fund, a liberal activist group. Eisler confirmed their accuracy to Reuters but said he did not intend them to become public.

"They reflect the feeling of frustration he has not just with Bush but with all these guys claiming they didn't know him," said Eisler, who knew Abramoff through a book he wrote about the Pequot Indian tribe.

Abramoff pleaded guilty to fraud charges in early January and is cooperating with prosecutors in a corruption probe that could implicate lawmakers and officials across Washington.

Bush has said he never had a discussion with Abramoff and does not remember having his picture taken with him. *Reuters*

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OPINION

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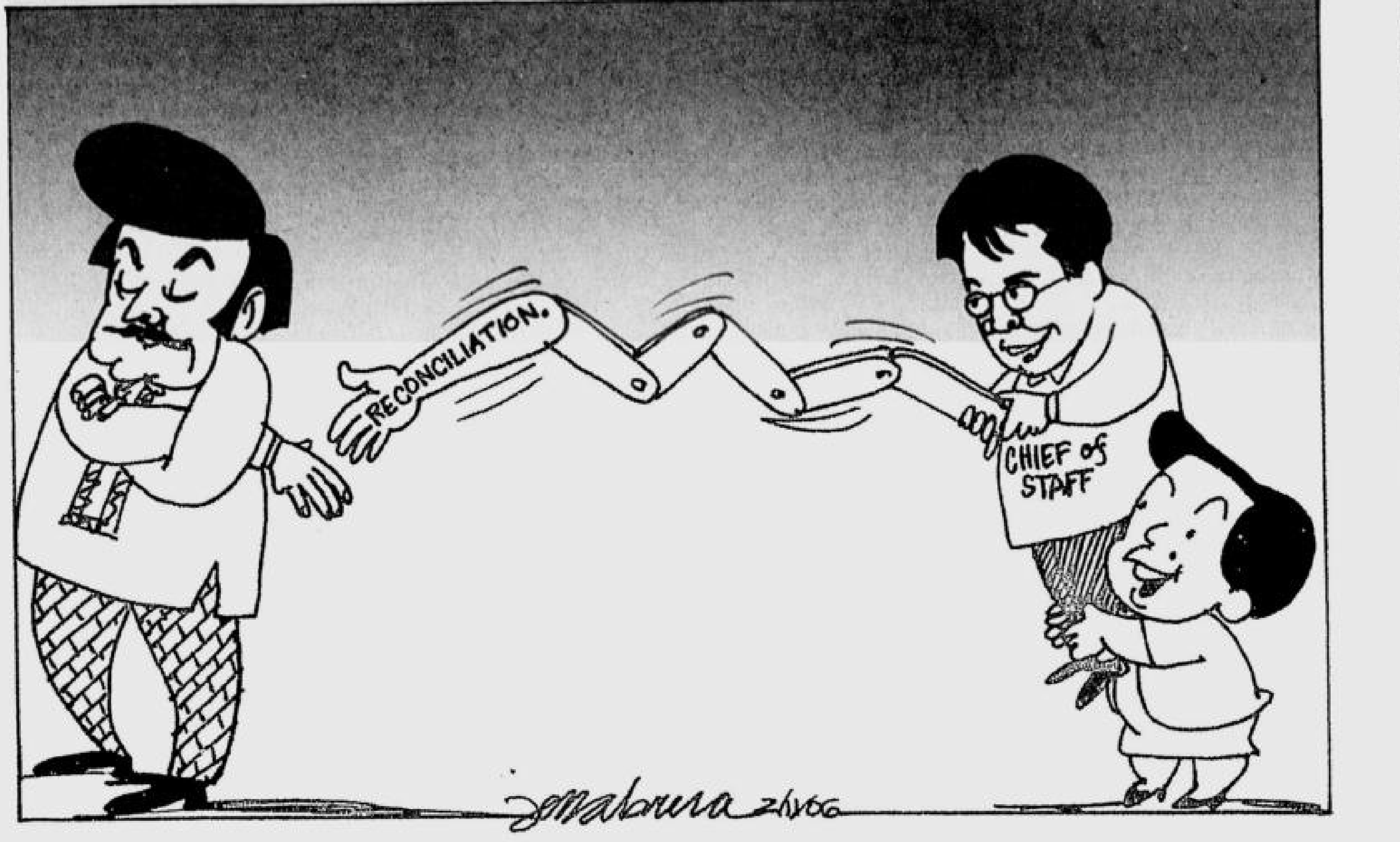

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EDITORIAL

BUDGET HEARINGS IN CONGRESS ARE, MORE OFten than not, mere occasions for horse-trading between the lawmakers and officials of the executive branch. If lawmakers, and especially the members of the House of Representatives, exhibit rather uncharacteristic zeal in attending, it is because such hearings offer rich possibilities for extracting from Cabinet members and other heads of government agencies commitments for the appointment of protégés and, even more importantly, augmenting their already fat pork barrel through the realignment of proposed appropriations.

Time and again, lawmakers have seized the opportunity presented by the hearings to humiliate and bully executive officials who had slighted them. And there have been occasions, when the hearings were turned into another forum to attack the administration.

The result of all these distractions is an appropriations act that gives the administration the green light to spend all the money it originally planned to spend, with not even one peso being cut from its budget proposal. And Congress, for all its members' exertions, has very little to show by way of ensuring a more efficient allocation of resources and a more prudent ordering of government priorities.

All this wheeling and dealing, all this misuse and abuse of this congressional prerogative, however, cannot excuse executive officials from the congressional hearings. But that is what Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government did last Wednesday. Bunye and the DILG officials wrote the Senate that they could not attend the budget hearing scheduled that day because they could not secure a clearance from the President as mandated by Executive Order No. 464.

EO 464 prohibits officials of the executive branch from attending congressional hearings unless their appearance is cleared by the President. The order was issued at the height of the Senate investigation of alleged electoral fraud triggered by the "Hello Garci" tapes. The EO has since been invoked by various officials to skip hearings called by the Senate not only on alleged election fraud but even alleged graft and corruption such as the P720-million fertilizer scandal. Malacañang has justified its noncooperation with the Senate investigating committees by claiming such probes were being conducted for the sole purpose of destabilizing the Arroyo administration.

The boycott of the budget hearings is Malacañang's most serious challenge to Congress' power to conduct investigations in aid of legislation. Unlike the other investigations that may or may not produce actual legislation, the budget hearings are supposed to help Congress craft the appropriations act. If in the process senators stray into strange territory, then the President's men can always point it out and possibly refuse to answer.

But to boycott the hearings is to deny Congress' right to ask how public funds are going to be spent as well as the people's right to know where their money is going. Is Malacañang now saying that budget making is exclusively the prerogative of the executive and that once it submits its budget proposal, Congress can either take it or leave it?

Unless it wants to be turned into a rubber stamp, Congress should assert its power over the purse forcefully and unequivocally. Although some senators want to play it cool, the Senate should stand its ground on this issue. If Bunye and the DILG continue to refuse to attend the hearings, they should be given no money to run their agencies.

If the President and her subalterns are spending their own money, they have every right to refuse to explain how they are going to spend it. If Bunye and the top brass of the DILG are willing to pay the salaries of employees and bankroll the projects of their respective agencies, they can go ahead and continue to ignore the Senate invitation to explain their budget proposals. But since they will be using taxpayers' money, the public ought to be told how they propose to spend it. Unless they do so, approving their budgets would be like giving them a blank check to draw from the national treasury like it were their personal kitty.

Justice Callejo and due process

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN LAST WEEK OF the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court in the case of the Nasecore vs. Meralco, GR No. 163935, promulgated on Feb. 2, 2006, declaring null and void the challenged order of the Energy Regulation Commission "approving the increase of respondent Meralco's generation charge from P3.1886 to P3.3213 per kilowatt hour, effective immediately."

It was significant to me that the writer of the decision was Justice Romeo J. Callejo Sr., one of the most erudite members of the present Court. The day the report was published, I went to the Supreme Court to congratulate him and ask for a copy of his *ponencia*. I later read it with much interest. He had held for the High Tribunal, without any dissent, that the ERC should not have approved the respondent's application for the said increase because of its failure to give the required notice to the public and all interested parties.

As a student and teacher of Constitutional Law, I was especially pleased that the basis of the Court's decision was due process of law as guaranteed and mandated in the first section of our Bill of Rights. It is this precious safeguard of liberty that is often invoked by both parties in a litigation but applied in favor of the one that has been deprived of the essential rights to notice and hearing. Its essence is best distilled in the famous cry of Themistocles to Eurybiades: "Strike—but hear me first!"

I was much impressed by the *ponencia* because of the thoroughness with which Justice Callejo examined the pertinent facts, including the history and powers of the NRC since its creation to replace the Energy Regulation Board, the delineation of the issues that had to be resolved, and the examination of the arguments of the contending parties before he arrived at his conclusion that the full Court approved. His masterly analysis of the complicated case was no less than admirable.

For the information of the public, when a case is raffled to a member of the Court, it is his responsibility to study it in the first instance by determining at the outset if the subject is within the jurisdiction of the court and the application for judicial intervention has been timely filed. These questions having been affirmed, he then proceeds to assess the controverted factual and legal issues with his own knowledge of the applicable laws and his research, with the help of his legal staff, on the relevant jurisprudence to guide him to his informed findings.

He then prepares a draft decision for submission to the Court en banc or in division for its approval, amendment or rejection. If his recommendations are accepted in full or with modifications, he then finalizes his *ponencia* for the signature of his colleagues to make it the decision of the Court itself. If not, he will convert his draft decision into a dissenting opinion against the new majority opinion to be written by another member designated by the Court.

I wrote the original draft decision in National Press Club vs. Commission on Elections, 207 SCRA 1, declaring as violative of freedom of expression the law prohibiting the use of the mass media for political advertisements. When it was rejected by the Court, I then converted it into a dissenting opinion that was subsequently confirmed by Congress with the repeal of the law.

When in Civil Liberties Union vs. Executive Secretary, 194 SCRA 317, the rest of the Court supported my dissenting opinion against the draft decision sustaining an executive order allowing Cabinet members to hold additional positions to their principal offices, the *ponente* did not follow the usual practice. Instead of converting his draft decision into a dissent, he adopted my arguments and incorporated them in a new opinion declaring the said order unconstitutional.

To justify the Court's decision in the Nasecore case, Justice Callejo agreed with the petitioners' contention that "the ERC Order is devoid of any basis as respondent Meralco did not comply with the requisite publication" and as a result of such omission, they "were not able to file their comments on respondent Meralco's amended application for the increase of their generation charge."

Justice Callejo's *ponencia* relied heavily on the earlier case of Freedom from Debt Coalition vs. ERC and Meralco, 432 SCRA 157, written by Justice Dante O. Tinga. It was also based on due process but did not mention the leading case on the subject, unlike Justice Callejo who recalled Tañada v. Tuvera, 146 SCRA 446, where the Court said:

"Laws must come out in the open in the clear light of the sun instead of skulking in the shadows with their dark, deep secrets. Mysterious pronouncement and rumored rules cannot be recognized as binding unless their existence and contents are confirmed by a valid publication intended to make full disclosure and give proper notice to the people. The furtive law is like a scabbarded saber that cannot feint, parry or cut unless the naked blade is drawn."

I congratulate Justice Romeo J. Callejo Sr. for his allegiance to due process as the libertarian hallmark of all democratic governments.

Goodbye to good governance

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT HUE AND cry—and rightly so—over the deaths of 71 women and three men in the Ultra stampede, not to mention the over-300 who were wounded and hospitalized as a result of that tragic accident. Not only were the casualties and injuries totally avoidable and unnecessary. They come up to more than the number of deaths from terrorist bombings in the country over the past five years.

But one hears no hue and cry over an equally tragic occurrence, which could have more serious, negative, long-run implications for the country: the near-death blow dealt to an institution which is key to our efforts to achieve good governance. The blow was dealt, ironically, by two of the three heads of the institution itself—our Civil Service—namely, Commissioners J. Waldemar V. Valmores and Cesar D. Buenaflor. The Civil Service Commission, under our present Constitution, is "the central personnel agency of the Philippine government" mandated to "establish a career service characterized by, and adopt measures to promote, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness and courtesy in the public service."

Commissioner Valmores retired on Feb. 1, six days after the near-death blow was dealt, so it was practically his last official act. Commissioner Buenaflor was appointed to the CSC in 2004, together with commissioners of other independent agencies, like the Commission on Audit and the Commission on Elections (to which Virgilio Garcillano happened to be the appointee). It is a reflection of the low regard with which the CSC is held by the Commission on Appointments that almost two years after his appointment, Buenaflor has not been confirmed. Not only that, the Commission on Appointments has not held any hearing on him. There was one scheduled at one time, but it was cancelled.

The blow on the Civil Service was not a physical one, of course. It was in the form of a decision (with a very powerful and scathing dissenting opinion from the third member of the CSC, Chair Karina C. David) on the case of Miguel Luz.

To refresh our memories, Luz is a career executive service officer (Ceso) serving since August 2002 as undersecretary of education (for administration and finance). He was doing very well in his job, according to his bosses, the education secretaries he worked with. And then he got into trouble with the Office of the President (OP).

What kind of trouble? Let's hear it from him:

"The OP asked the DepED to move a President's Social Fund (PSF) grant through the department in a questionable transaction to a congressman. I initially objected but eventually complied, subject to certain conditions the grantee (the congressman) had to abide by. (He never did).

"The OP then asked DepED to move more PSF funds to the same congressman in what was a prohibited (and therefore illegal) transaction (i.e., the use of post-dated cheques). In this instance, I refused and returned the cheques to Malacañang on Sept. 9, 2005 (a Friday)."

What he did was what every career civil servant—everyone with a modicum of integrity, that is—should do. If Malacañang were worth its salt, it would have thanked him for calling its attention to its oversight in issuing post-dated checks. But that's not what Malacañang did.

On Sept. 13, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita fired him, in a particularly ham-handed (and grammatically incorrect) manner: "We wish to thank you for your services as Undersecretary, Department of Education, effective immediately."

Ermita was pulled up short by CSC Chair David, who informed him that Luz was a Ceso and could not be terminated without cause.

Nothing daunted Ermita who wrote Luz a memo on Oct. 4, 2005, reassigning the latter to the Department of Labor "in the exigency of service." Unfortunately, the effect was spoiled because Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas' letter asking for him was explicitly premised on the understanding that "Mike Luz is being moved" from the DepED, but not on any initiative on her part.

And that's when Luz brought his appeal to the CSC. Which then decided, with a vote of two to one, that (1) the CSC had no jurisdiction over the case—that fell under the jurisdiction of the Office of the President, and after that, of the Court of Appeals; and (2) even if the CSC had jurisdiction, it would still have decided against Luz because he had no tenure, because he was not qualified to be undersecretary, and because his reassignment was in order since it was being done in the interest of public service.

Chair David's dissenting opinion figuratively cut their arguments to ribbons, citing chapter and verse the reasons why the CSC has jurisdiction over Luz's appeal, why Luz has security of tenure, and detailing why his reassignment to the Department of Labor and Employment is tainted with bad faith (suppression of evidence; attempt to terminate immediately after Luz's refusal to follow an illegal order) and not done in the interest of public service (the DepED is undermanned, the DOLE has its full complement).

But David is in the minority. And the message that goes out to every civil servant, loud and clear, is that they must obey what the OP and the political leadership say, no matter how illegal, under pain of dismissal or transfer, from which there is no recourse.

Goodbye to the integrity and political neutrality of the civil servant. Goodbye to good governance.

Evelio Javier: authentic hero of democracy

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BELOW ARE EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH I delivered yesterday in San Jose, Antique, during the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the martyrdom of Evelio Javier:

My longtime friend Gov. Sally Perez invited me today to recall the role your beloved hero, the late visionary Gov. Evelio Javier, played in the restoration of democracy in our country and the defense of the sacred ballot, that resulted in his martyrdom 20 years ago. Between 1984 up to February 1986, this columnist, then a political reporter for Mr. & Ms. Magazine, which the dictator Marcos used to call the "mosquito press," covered the opposition to Marcos. Those years will remain etched forever in my memory.

I first met Evelio in the campaign for the 1984 Batasan Pambansa elections where he ran in Antique. The campaign came within months of Ninoy Aquino's martyrdom and Evelio, handsome, brilliant and charismatic, was one of the many opposition leaders who had come forward to fight the dictatorship. There were 66 oppositionists who made it to the Batasan, among them Lito Atienza, now Liberal Party chair and mayor of Manila.

I had likened Evelio's unique campaign to Jesus Christ's preaching from a boat in the Sea of Galilee. Evelio sailed in a small boat with his signature song, "Impossible Dream," blaring as he campaigned among the coastal folk of Antique. The press also likened him to a David fighting Goliath, and he proved to be no match to Marcos' henchmen who cheated him of victory. It would be two years after his death that his victory would be officially recognized.

But instead of brooding about his cruel political fate, Evelio turned his boundless energies to help in the struggle to restore democracy. The presidential election was still very much an iffy thing, but it was clear that the opposition had to stay united if it was to defeat the dictator. Ninoy's widow emerged as the strongest candidate, but unity was threatened when two other leaders also made plans to run. Unity between her and Doy Laurel was forged by no less than Jaime Cardinal Sin in a two-hour meeting with them in his Palace. But Jovito Salonga, the brilliant former senator and bar topnotcher, still wanted to run.

One morning, Evelio, Lorna Yap (who later ran for Congress in Aklan) and I decided to drive up to Salonga's residence in Pasig to try to talk him out of it. With tears in our eyes and passion in our hearts, we told him that if he and Ninoy's widow would both run, they would both lose. Salonga listened closely without saying a word as we attempted to chip away at his grand dream. *"Talaga bang 'yan ang paniniwala ninyo?"* he asked us, and we nodded. Then he shook our hands and smiled as we bade goodbye. It was a measure of his greatness that he listened to us small fry. We soon learned he had decided to drop out of the race. Other opposition leaders never knew the mission we presumptuously took upon ourselves for God and country.

The opposition had its ups and downs. One evening in October or November 1985, I was part of a small group that sat in a cafeteria in UP Diliman, assessing the nebulous political situation. Evelio looked very sad and lonely and also quite sick as his sinusitis had worsened. I suspected he missed his wife and children who were in the US (in hindsight, I wonder if he had a premonition of his impending murder). I suggested that he spend Christmas with his family, but he said not yet, there's a lot to be done.

True enough, in the first week of December 1985, Marcos suddenly announced that snap presidential elections would be held on Feb. 7, 1986. The opposition swung into action and I covered its campaign in 11 regions. In late 1985, I spent several days going up and down the island of Panay aboard a jeep with Evelio, Victor Sison, John Osmeña, Sally Perez and journalist Teddy Montelibano, campaigning for Ninoy's widow.

Election day found me in Danao, Cebu, covering the US monitoring team. Evelio took charge of the opposition campaign in Antique and the days immediately following the election found him in San Jose, tightly guarding Cory's votes.

But the situation was becoming very tense in Antique. Two weeks before the polls, Evelio's relatives were massacred in Sibalom by suspected Marcos henchmen. The next thing I knew, he had been murdered here in San Jose, chased from house to house by evil forces who only knew the power of the armalite. When his mangled body was recovered, he was clutching a rosary in his bloodied hands. In true Marian fashion, he met his martyrdom on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11.

The brutality and brazenness of Evelio's murder in broad daylight shocked the world, triggering an outpouring of outrage and grief. When his body was brought to lie in state in Baclaran Church, a number of European ambassadors showed up. The tide began to turn rapidly against Marcos as one foreign government after the other recognized the opposition candidate as the rightful winner. The procession bringing Evelio's body to his alma mater, the Ateneo de Manial University, was reminiscent of Ninoy's funeral. Many of the mourners were students, for whom he symbolized the purest idealism.

Then he was brought back to Antique to be with his adoring *kasimanwa* for the last time. At dawn on Feb. 18, I flew in for his funeral in a single-engine plane piloted by Fr. James Donelan, with Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres as my co-passenger. Evelio's soul mate Sally, his widow Precious, his siblings Nona and now Rep. Exequiel Javier and I comforted one another even as we rejoiced over his immortal place in history.

Four days later, Edsa I broke out. Clearly Evelio's martyrdom was the catalyst of that phenomenal event that shook the world. Centuries ago, datus from Borneo fled from the darkness of tyranny to seek the bright sunlight of democracy on the shores of Antique. Evelio Javier was a worthy descendant of those freedom-seeking datus, an authentic hero of democracy.

The women in the stampede

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT MAY BE ASKING TOO MUCH OF ABS-CBN management that they instruct their news and public affairs department to strive for objectivity—or, at least, disinterest—in its coverage of the tragedy at the PhilSports Arena.

But even if no orders were sent down from the executive suite to "attack" Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus and his rather colorful remarks at the close of the fact-finding probe, I guess the TV reporters and radio commentators couldn't help themselves coming to the defense of their mother station.

To be fair, the newscasts of ABS-CBN have striven to keep to the narrow line between reporting and editorializing, though an attempt to draw "Eat Bulaga" host Joey de Leon into the controversy has fallen flat. Other news broadcasts, especially those of the "other" network, have been scrupulous in ensuring that their reports are not tainted by bias. I'm just curious how they'll cover the story once indictments are handed out.

* * *

ABOUT the most heartbreaking thing about the stampede at the PhilSports Arena, commented upon by others, was that the great majority of the fatalities were women (of the 74 dead, only three were men).

Though the youngest of them was only 4 years old, most were in their 50s-70s (just a reminder to reporters and desk people, women in their 50s are not elderly!), wives and mothers and grandmothers, many of whom had gone to Pasig together with relatives, friends and neighbors. Stories related by survivors indicated that most had decided to make an outing of it, packing food, water, extra clothes and even beddings to camp out in front of PhilSports for days or however long it took to be among the lucky few allowed in to join the audience of "Wowowee" and get a crack at the cash and prizes.

Dick Pascual of the Star has said the overwhelming presence of women in the crowd is an indictment of Filipino men, an indicator of how women in the family are often forced to assume the role of economic provider, doing everything they can to make ends meet in the face of their husbands' or sons' joblessness or underemployment. One such survival strategy, apparently, is investing time and patience in lining up for TV game shows. However small, the prizes would at least provide a day's sustenance as well as a measure of "celebrity" among one's neighbors.

Mike Tan of this paper explains the preponderance of women among the dead in that they may have been the most patient and eager in the queue, and so landed in the front of the line, but were most vulnerable when the latecomers—mostly men—started to push and force their way to the front.

* * *

ANOTHER explanation for the "feminization" of the "Wowowee" crowd is that the majority of the urban poor population is made up of women. Most of the rural to urban migrants in the Philippines are young, unmarried women. A study conducted in the 1980s (J.L. Lauby, "The Migration of a Daughter as a Family Strategy: Effects on the Occupations and Marital Experience of Women in the Philippines, 1987") noted that "over 40 percent of Filipino women migrated between the ages of 15 and 24, while they were still unmarried."

Though the data may be decades old, the conclusions, especially as they pertain to the role of women in Philippine society, are still valid today. The author says families may choose to send a daughter to the city (and thence to foreign countries), rather than a son, "both because women may be better able than men to find an urban job that provides a steady wage, and daughters are taught to be responsible to and dependent on their families, and so they can be relied upon to keep supporting their parents even after they have moved to the city."

Another study of urban poor women (Piglas Diwa, 1988) validates the contention that majority of the migrants to the city are women, and in the face of severe competition for jobs, end up in the Free Trade Zones (or factories and service institutions), in prostitution or the informal sector, working as vendors, laundrywomen, manicurists, househelp.

Profiling the women in one urban poor community, the study found and described women 21-60 years of age thus: "Most of them are vendors who lead very insecure lives on the pavement with constant harassment from the police. They mobilize the children for work to meet daily needs. Their living conditions are very poor and they are prone to illness. Their greatest demand is for child-care services…"

* * *

IF anything, the conditions of urban poor women described in these studies have even gotten worse in the last two decades. Competition for scarce jobs, especially with the collapse of the garment industry which employed mostly women, has grown much fiercer, while the contractualization of labor ensures that the few jobs that women land are of short duration, providing no job security and no training.

True, as some commentators have pointed out, these women were not among the "poorest of the poor." They could at least afford a TV set and money for transportation to Pasig. But in a situation of deprivation and uncertainty, the lure of a cash prize was too tempting to ignore. Long a cliché of radio serials is the exchange between a male breadwinner and his harassed wife, with the husband complaining that while he turns over his paycheck to his wife, all he gets in return is dinner of dried fish, implying his wife must be "squandering" his wages—which leads to tearful recrimination, if not violence.

But household management in such a situation is more a burden than a privilege, since it's the woman who must seek to bridge the growing gap between family income and family necessities, a gap a cash prize from "Wowowee" could fill up, even if only for a day.

A different drummer

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FILIPINOS AREN'T USED TO QUESTIONING their elders and so-called betters, so it isn't surprising that our local religious problems deal mainly with the Church "interfering" in politics. But all this talk about the separation of Church and State, while certainly valid, isn't particularly credible simply because during the 1986 People Power Revolution, no one complained about the Church as an ally in the movement to oust Marcos. I don't think it's fair to use the Church when it's politically convenient and damn it when it speaks up on issues (namely illegal gambling and cheating at the polls) that Church leaders believe affect people's well-being. It makes us look like a bunch of users.

Of course, the very fact that the Catholic Church has managed to survive all kinds of tyrants and dictators who have long since fallen to dust says a lot about its ability to protect itself. If you think about it, way back 500 years ago, the Church was already operating on a global scale.

Catholics in other countries have been calling for reforms ever since a major crisis erupted in the mid-1980s on account of cases of sexual abuse by members of the clergy and financial duplicity as well as disregard for the interests of the laity. Here not a peep about reforms is heard.

Reform agendas in the US hierarchy involve ideas about increased lay participation in governance, admitting women to the priesthood and permitting priests to marry. If the hierarchy in the Philippines is discussing anything at all (aside from politics), I doubt if any of the above questions are part of the discussions. The bishops may argue that our problems are different from those of the First World, but unlike the old days, cable news is instantaneous. But again they may be right since the majority do not have access to cable TV or even newspapers. Also, we are known to be arch-conservative, so it's doubtful that the laity would accept the idea of women as priests or married parish priests. Still, this doesn't mean the problems don't exist or that we are not involved if we believe the Church to be universal.

It has been pointed out that churches in Europe are empty, but the fastest-growing religions in the United States are the Southern Baptists and Pentecostals. The other religion giving them a run for their money is Islam. In case we haven't noticed it (and this is very possible because we're also basically myopic), religion appears to be replacing ideology as a very destructive force in world affairs. It is coloring attitudes toward government, press freedom and obligation and even ideas of women's liberty. The word "crusade," which harks back a thousand years, is being used more and more as one of the reasons for the present conflict with fundamentalist Islam. How many of us bother to discuss these issues?

Granted some politicians have problems with the Church every now and then on the questions of *jueteng* and election cheating, but those are transitory matters. Liberal Catholics are invoking the word "reformation" these days to emphasize the urgency of reform within the Church itself. The crisis which exposed the misuse of both sex and power is felt to be as serious as the one it faced during Luther's time 500 years ago. That one nearly destroyed the Church and rent it asunder into various and varied sects.

The original Reformation was about corruption and exploitation in the Church and encompassed theology, as well. It challenged the idea that the Church had the divine authority to define dogma and decide matters of doctrine, thereby denying the value of tradition. It focused on individual consciences, for example, to interpret the Bible. What need then was there for institutionalized religion if the Holy Spirit speaks to me as well as to you?

I do not know whether World History is still taught in our schools. More's the pity if it isn't, because the youth should know that the original Reformation transformed the relationship between Church and State, changed the practice of religion and affected the politics and economics of the times.

Liberal Catholics (of which there are probably three in the whole Philippines) would prefer a more tolerant Church that emphasizes individual choice and is more tolerant of homosexuality and gender roles. Celibacy for the clergy would not be mandatory but a matter of choice. Would it be of any interest at all to the public if such issues were discussed in talk shows?

Perhaps it makes sense for our bishops to focus on politics and environmental issues, given the complexity of the problem facing the Catholics right now. Transitory matters like politics are readily understandable and easier to confront.

But it isn't the liberal sector that is growing but the Pentecostals, the Evangelicals and Southern Baptists who are traditional and even reactionary. The Catholic faith in Africa and Asia is believed to be more traditional in its respect for the power of the clergy and even a preference for the older devotions. And since the annual baptism total for the Philippines is said to be higher than the totals for Italy, France, Spain and Poland combined and the number of Filipino Catholics could grow to 90 million by 2025, and perhaps to 130 million by 2050, Filipino bishops shouldn't have any worries that anyone will challenge their authority any time soon.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Typically 'torpe'

YOUNG BLOOD

Daniel Lacson

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF *"TORPE"* when I reached my third year at the Philippine Science High School. (It should come as a relief to some people that kids who are known to be nerds have to deal with life's realities, like falling in love.) For three years, I had tried to find out how anyone becomes *torpe*. Now I believe the best way to do it is to follow an average high school student as he goes about dealing with love and all the troubles it brings.

Let's start with a boy who reaches his teens. He studied in an all-boys, Catholic school, making him unfamiliar with members of the opposite sex. He can't socialize with them because to him, they are "aliens."

Unfortunately for him, man is born to like women. So, his heart starts to beat for one of these aliens. He can't understand why, but it doesn't matter to him. He thinks of trying to stop it, but quickly he realizes that it would blow him up to kingdom come, like a nuclear explosion. So he lets the feeling flow through his veins. He realizes it is a brand-new feeling and a refreshing one, indeed. He feels as if he has found "true meaning" in his life.

But this is not your ordinary love story. This *torpe* does not fall for the usual beauty-queen type of girl. Funny, but he likes the "nice" girls in his class, in particular the cutest one. She has lovely eyes, long black hair and, above all, a cute smile that sends his heart pounding furiously. Oh yes, the smile makes time stand still for him.

He begins to think of a time when they will be talking as they walk down the street, when he will lean against her as they sit on green fields or share their thoughts as they lie on a mountainside, under a bright full moon and shining stars, of course. But if all of this sounds childish, the thought is sweet enough for him to fall even deeper in love.

There is only one problem with this blissful world of his imagination. For it to come true, he has to make his move quickly. And this is something he's not good at.

He ends up asking for a sign from God that maybe he has a chance. All he asks for is one shot. If one is blessed enough, he thinks, then he won't blow his one chance.

He starts by stealing glances at her. Then the glances come more often. Sometimes, without knowing it, he actually stares at her until she melts and his jaw drops.

There are times when she accidentally looks at him, too. And the moment their eyes meet, his heart would pound faster than a 1,000-horsepower engine, his entire body would go numb and cold as ice cream, and he would be forced to stare away or look blindly at the ceiling. Sometimes he feels like running away, but he cannot make his legs take him anywhere.

Then, even a simple greeting becomes hard for him to say. A simple "hi" feels like a long valedictory speech for him. After he resolves to say a simple "hello," he sweats at the mere sight of her and looks away when she begins to answer. He cannot look into her eyes for his tongue will stick harder to the roof of his mouth.

Given this problem, the best way for him to communicate with her is through letters. But since it is a bit odd to be writing letters in this age, he decides to text her. (By the way, getting her number took a lot more courage than you can imagine.)

He sends his first message, promising that if she replies, he would kneel in front of the altar and thank God and all the angels and saints. And this goes on for several nights, since this is all he can do.

He thinks there is a good chance he can befriend her. And when that happens, that will build up his confidence and his "torpeness" will fade away.

After some time, he can greet her without sweating. His fantasy world seems about ready to come together. He can't believe that something good is actually happening in his dull life.

But then, he finds out where things really stand. The girl is in the stage where she seems uncomfortable just being near him. She suspects the guy is thinking she likes him. So, she starts to avoid him.

When he notices this, he tries to keep his cool. He wants to bring back his very few, short days of happiness.

Then he learns that she likes someone else. And there is no happy ending to his story.

He wakes up from his dream and sees the darkness of the reality that some things are never meant to be. Don't get him wrong, he still has feelings for her and so he lets her be or "sets her free," as people say.

He goes back to where he was before and resumes his dull life. He still looks at her, but rarely now. He still talks to her, but the sweat and uncooperative tongue have returned. He has recovered his "torpeness" in full.

This is the story of an average boy, who knows what being *torpe* means. He has learned the hard way "how things really are." He is almost grown-up now but remains *torpe*. And he continuous to search for answers.

Daniel Lacson, 16, is a junior student at the Philippine Science High School. A proud "torpe" still in search for the answers only his fellow "torpes" could truly understand.

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THEY SAID

Fading capability

"I hope for all of us, dwellers of this planet, to attempt to work things out first before we start lighting cars and buildings on fire and hurting other people. Let us all talk first. We have the beautiful ability to speak but we are losing the ability to understand and compromise."

—Hollywood actor Johnny Depp

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House abolition: stroke of genius

"ALL SOUND AND FURY SIGNIFYing nothing"—that's what this noisy talk and debate on Charter change is all about. If there should be any change at all in our politically doggone country, politicians—especially the congressmen—need only look themselves in the toilet mirror.

Fact 1: Graft and corruption is the single biggest disease that ails our nation, one that's spawned by congressional pork devoured by more than 200 white elephants known by the misnomer "representatives." No wonder, despite a huge annual budget, no president, no administration, no economic genie has ever succeeded in providing the Filipino his most basic needs: affordable food, medicine, decent shelter and education.

Fact 2: Save for a handful, members of the House of Representatives have already outlived their usefulness and function. Very inaccessible, they try hard to make "*porma*" to show—especially on television—that they are doing everything when in fact and in truth they are doing nothing in relation to legislation.

If we let go of congressmen, we will be safe from those flashy cars and their intimidating "*wang-wangs*" and arrogant escorts who use the roads like they own them. Not to mention congressional bigamists and lechers who prey on hapless and innocent job-seekers. When congressmen are gone, their abusive and bossy henchmen and sycophants will likewise evaporate. This is one pragmatic way to end the "boast of heraldry and the pomp of power" in our society.

Without congressmen, who will look after the interest of our people, especially those from far-flung areas? The governors, the mayors, barangay officials, that's who. The hands-on performance of these local officials provides transparency. They are therefore more accessible and tractable than the present breed of representatives who live it up in flashy villages in Makati while their constituents languish in the farthest tips of our islands.

Fact 3: Should there be a constitutional crisis that needs legislative solution, two dozen senators with the aid of the executive and judiciary branches are more than enough to tackle the job—but not 236 talkative, grandstanding, superfluous, show biz-hungry congressmen.

In fairness to congressmen who (believe they) are qualified, honest men of integrity, they can always run for senator or president—for we do have in the House a few good men of senatorial and presidential caliber.

With the right leadership and in honest hands, the billions of pork money saved annually (sans the House) can thus be used for worthier causes such as hospitals, schools, C-roads, LRTs, better garbage collection, crime prevention and an effective flood control system.

The bottom line is: minus the House, our nation can survive and operate a government efficiently, democratically, and above all, economically. The self-destruction of this expensive House is not a bloody sacrifice, but a stroke of genius.

—POMPEYO PEDROCHE,
57 Monroe St.,
Garfield, New Jersey, USA

Thinking like a CPA, not a business columnist

MY PERSON AND THE SOCIAL Security System have been favorite subjects of INQUIRER's business columnists Conrado Banal III and Victor Agustin lately. Apparently, someone who frantically opposes the merger offered by Banco de Oro to Equitable PCIBank has had easy access to these columnists.

Opposing a proposed merger may be understandable. After all, the dilution that would affect holdings of certain minority shareholders might be cause for serious concern for such parties. But misrepresenting the stand of the SSS in this connection is difficult to understand.

Let it be known that the SSS has not formulated any position on this offer of a merger. We are still in the process of studying the proposal. The EPCIB board has directed its management to undertake a thorough and intensive study of the proposal and to submit its findings to the board, and if it so wishes, to make recommendations as to what is good for the bank. We, in the SSS, are conducting our own parallel study to determine what recommendations should be submitted to the Social Security Commission for its evaluation to advance the interest of our members.

I am being faulted for not rejecting the BDO offer outright. But in my career as an independent certified public accountant and now as a public servant, I have always favored listening before I speak, and studying before I decide. Had I been trained differently, I might have been tempted to be a business columnist.

—CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ,
president and
chief executive officer,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman, QC

Confused about how to sing 'Lupang Hinirang'

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE ATtention of the concerned authorities to the way some singers desecrate our national anthem. While many people applaud the singers for their very beautiful voices, it pains me so much to hear them sing the "Lupang Hinirang" the way they do.

Let me cite as examples the way Lani Misalucha (last year) and Jennifer Bautista (this year) sang the national anthem before the fights of our idol Manny Pacquiao. I am not aware of any crime that may have been committed in the way they sang the anthem, but I believe that our national anthem should be sung in its original tempo.

We were taught early in life how to sing it perfectly, only to hear it sung by our professional singers in a different way. While Pacquiao was able to project a beautiful image of our country to the world, non-Filipinos probably are now very confused, unable to figure out whether our national anthem is rock, ballad, jazz or march.

—ARTHUR U. PAGADOR,
secretary,
Sangguniang Bayan,
Buguey, Province of
Cagayan North

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LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Independent EPA for a change

WE WERE RIGHT IN TELLING the Department of Environment and Natural Resources several years ago that it would not serve the environment and the local populace to grant Lafayette Philippines Inc. the privilege to exploit the mineral resources of Rapu-Rapu Island, precisely because the island's ecology is very fragile and prone to environmental accidents.

This was the position taken by the Senate's committee on environment and natural resources, the Diocese of Legazpi and several academics and cause-oriented groups in Bicol back then. The department merely shrugged off our position, claiming Lafayette would be using state-of-the-art technology, thus ensuring the environment from harm.

The fact is two mining companies operated there prior to Lafayette, and they, too, caused similar accidents which in turn forced them to abandon their operations, but not before they had harmed the ecology of the island.

We cannot lay the entire blame on the DENR people for recommending the issuance of the permit to mine the area. The DENR on the whole suffers from what the Senate calls "institutional schizophrenia." It suffers from a duality of purpose, policy and mission. The agency will always be caught in a bind on what to do—to mine or to conserve; to extract or to develop; to exploit or to protect.

Current experience suggests that it will always promote exploitation rather than protection, given the current economic conditions. Perhaps, it is time that we created an independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA). An EPA that will protect the environment and people's safety and health from irresponsible interests and greed. An agency that will provide and implement the overarching policies, laws and guidelines on what is rational, responsible and appropriate in dealing with the environment.

How many more Rapu-Rapu or Marinduque incidents do we have to experience before we come to our senses?

—LITO DAVID,
lydavid79@yahoo.com

'Delicadeza' in the Comelec

THE STINGING INDICTMENT made by the Supreme Court, the Senate and the Catholic bishops against the Commission on Elections headed by Chair Benjamin Abalos, remains unheeded. The calls for the resignation of the Comelec officials have fallen on the deaf ears of officials who have obviously succeeded in stripping themselves of all vestiges of respectability, decency, decorum and morality.

What barefaced shamelessness and brazen insolence! And the chutzpah to hang on to power, influence and notoriety!

In different climes, people of their ilk have been stoned or even lined up against the wall to be summarily executed, or disgracefully impeached, or at the very least, hauled off to jail.

In olden Japan, "hara-kiri" was regarded as a "great honor." In "seppuku," the man would sit before an admiring circle of friends and colleagues, at the crack of dawn, facing the rising sun. He was allowed to write down a small farewell poem, then accept the inevitable and honorable death—by the sword of a friend or colleague. This was regarded as an act of sincere penance for a shameful conduct.

In this country, we have a time-honored Filipino value referred to as a "sense of *delicadeza*." It used to be a badge of honor for government officials. The sense of *delicadeza* is supposed to be an instinctive guide for public officials on how to act or behave in all circumstances, whether in public or private life. In essence, it is etiquette, well-mannered conduct, code of behavior or protocol; in a way, good manners and right conduct. Besmirch the good name of a government official, or even hint at a misgiving or doubt about his integrity, or associate him with scandal or abuse of power—whether true or not—and he would be ready to offer his resignation rather than dishonor his family's name and reputation, or malign the institution he is connected with.

After bungling billions of taxpayers' money, the Comelec commissioners take refuge under the Constitution. Couple this with their tragicomical handling of the last elections.

Why are the commissioners clinging to their posts? Is it to make amends and cushion the impact of their plunderous deeds? And with the help of Johnny-come-lately Presidential Adviser for Electoral Reforms Hilario Davide yet? Is it the generous allowances, perks and privileges, including the hefty retirement pay and other emoluments? Or is it the hallucinogenic electoral power or the kaleidoscopic partisan influence that goes with the job? Or the quid pro quo idea of payback in the concept of "*utang na loob*"? Or, is it because the commissioners can be trusted to pave the road map to Cha-cha?

—LUTGARDO B. BARBO,
Ateneo School of Government,
Rockwell, Makati City

Why US treats us like a colony

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE INquirer editorial titled "Unequal relationship." (PDI, 1/24/06) The US government treats the Philippines as if it were still its colony because Filipinos continue to behave like a colonized people. Don't blame the Americans.

With all the "smart" senators and lawyers that we have, how did we end up with a Visiting Forces Agreement that favors the Americans in the first place? Let's better ask Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who had a hand in drafting and accepting the VFA years ago.

We blame others for our incompetence. If we are going to give away our sovereignty, at least get something big in return—not a measly sum of money or a few hundred obsolete rifles.

Where are the helicopters President Bush promised us for being with him in Iraq? *Quid pro quo, hora mismo, pronto.*

—ROGELIO PEÑA,
rogerp34@juno.com

Reinforcing our national pride

THE EDITORIAL ON FILIPINO achievements (PDI, 1/31/06) is very accurate and reassuring. Indeed, as a people, we have also our great scientific contributions. Among these are Vitamin B, erythromycin, sex reversal of tilapia, putting fish to sleep, research on bangus, shrimps and rice propagation, ad infinitum.

Please print more articles on the Filipinos' scientific contributions as a reminder, challenge and inspiration to our young, and let the articles tell the world as well about our respectable contributions to humanity. (Unfortunately, our country is more known for endless political squabbles.)

It's high time we ignored our politicians. This course of action will silence them. The articles on our achievements will surely reinforce our national pride and social stability.

—APOLONIO ANOTA,
apolonio@singnet.com.sg

Incredible cruelty to dogs

FOUR-YEAR-OLD RESSIA MAE EDORIA'S death, apparently due to eating meat from a rabid dog ("Dog meat can be dangerous to one's health," PDI, 2/1/06), should make anyone think twice before dining on dog meat.

Not only is dog meat a life-threatening health hazard, it's a product of incredible cruelty: Dogs killed for their flesh are often transported hundreds of miles, all the while crammed in hot, tiny wire cages with no food or water. Their paws are often tied behind their backs, and their mouths are taped or tied shut or muzzled with rusty tin cans. Covered in feces and urine, dogs arrive at the slaughterhouse where their throats are usually punctured with a knife, and they slowly bleed to death.

It's time the Philippine government vigorously enforced its laws and punished those found guilty of trading or eating dog meat—for the sake of dogs and humans alike.

Visit www.PETA.org to learn how you can help stop cruelty to animals.

—JASON BAKER,
director, People for the Ethical Treatment
of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific,
JasonB@petaasiapacific.org

Leave the politicians out of the Pacquiao limelight

I AM A FILIPINO LIVING ABROAD. I REGRET not having had the opportunity to watch Manny Pacquiao's fight in Las Vegas. But just the same, I am very proud of what he has achieved.

I have just read an article about his victory, but it disturbed me that more than half of it was on politicians trying to outdo each other in earning "*pogi points*" from the historic moment. It is really amazing that our politicians (especially the First Couple) make themselves so visible in Pacquiao's victory celebrations, but they are nowhere to be seen when their support is needed in developing sports programs.

I have high a respect for the INQUIRER, but I get really disappointed when it allows itself to be used by politicians to promote their stinking selves.

May I suggest, next time the INQUIRER writes about Pacquiao's victories, please leave out the politicians; focus on him alone. He deserves that much for making all of us proud.

—JET PASCUA,
colorfools@yahoo.com

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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

The oil spill that won't be removed

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Semirara Island, Antique

WEARING RUBBER BOOTS and a protective mask, 56-year-old Linda Ayulogio waded through the sticky and thick water as she scooped oil-covered materials into a bucket before they are transferred into a temporary dump.

THE SHORES of Semirara from a distance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since Jan. 11, Ayulogio has not taken a day off from work. "*Hindi ako nagpapahinga. Sayang ang bayad* (I don't rest. I don't want to miss the pay)," she said.

Ayulogio gets P150 for a day's work that starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. with a 15-minute rest in the morning and a lunch break.

She said times have been difficult since a power barge ran aground off the shores of Semirara Island on Dec. 18 causing a massive oil spill that has contaminated 112 hectares of mangrove forests.

It has also contaminated fish sanctuaries and damaged sea grasses, seaweed farms and other forms of marine life.

Her husband, a fisherman, would be lucky now if he gets more than half a kilogram of fish a day to sell for P50 per kg.

Ayulogio is among thousands of residents of Semirara Island who are now suffering from the oil spill. She is also part of a group of more than 250 residents hired for clean-up operations.

Power Barge 106 of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) ran aground 200 meters off the shores of Sitio Bobog, Barangay Semirara, the biggest of three villages of Semirara Island.

The 5,045-hectare island is part of a group of nine islands of Caluya town, Antique, at the northern tip of Panay Island. It is the site of the Semirara Mining Corp., the biggest coal mine in Asia.

Blamed on the weather

The barge was being towed by a tugboat on its way to Oriental Mindoro from Masbate when it was battered by strong winds and waves.

Napocor blamed bad weather. The Special Board of Marine Inquiry is investigating to find out what caused the grounding of the power barge.

Capt. Arturo Olavario, Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, said an estimated 364,120 liters of bunker fuel had been spilled from the nearly 900,000 liters stored in the barge's four fuel tanks.

The Napocor, however, maintains that the volume spilled is less than 200,000 liters.

Despite the difference in figures, the spill is still the biggest in the country's history, according to the Coast Guard.

The worst hit residents are those dependent on fishing and shell gathering who now face uncertainties in their livelihood.

"We at first did not know that the spill was that much and that it will have a big impact on our lives," said Ayulogio.

For now, the residents are glad that they have been hired by Napocor to work in the clean-up operations.

Evelyn Ysuj, 20, and her husband William, 21, who are part of the clean-up teams, said the P300 a day that they get compensate for their small fish catch and the lack of shells to gather.

When they started working, many of the workers complained of stomachache and the pervasive smell of bunker oil. But she does not mind now.

"*Kahit sabihin mong ayaw mo na ang baho, pipilitin mo dahil kailangang mabuhay* (You have to force yourself to work despite the smell because we need to survive)," she said.

Evelyn is a high school graduate while her husband finished elementary school. They have a 2-year-old son.

The residents said they have not received any assistance from government agencies and the local government. They are unsure of their plight when the clean-up operations are completed and their work is stopped.

Dying mangroves

Dr. Rex Sadaba, a mangrove expert from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV), said the seedlings and mangrove saplings could not be saved because of the volume of the spill.

"We can only watch them die," he said.

Sadaba, who leads a team of researchers from UPV who are studying the impact of the oil spill on the mangroves, said the real extent of the damage and its long-term consequences can only be determined after a comprehensive study has been made.

He said old growth mangrove trees could survive but the recovery of the mangroves may last from 10 to 50 years based on experience from previous oil spills in other countries. But he said the mangroves could not be restored to its pre-oil spill status.

Despite the loss of their livelihood and their uncertain future, the residents do not blame the Napocor for the spill.

"We are not angry. It was unintentional and they did not want this to happen," said Ayulogio.

She said the residents would continue working while they are allowed to but they do not know what to do when the cleanup is over.

"This is our life (fishing and shell gathering). We don't know what else to do," she said.

She said they have accepted their fate but hopes for help. "*Yung basura napigilan namin pero ito wala na kaming magagawa* (We successfully stopped the garbage but we are helpless about this)," she said.

The villagers successfully blocked a plan of Metro Manila to use Semirara as a waste dump in 2001.

The clean-up teams, led by the Coast Guard, have collected more than 20,000 sacks of contaminated materials. Napocor spokesperson Dennis Gana said they expect to finish the operations by April.

Gana said the Napocor is committed to shoulder the cost of the cleanup, estimated to reach P90 million.

The state-owned agency will also provide compensation for damages caused by the oil spill.

It has created a task force based in Semirara to oversee the operations and to conduct consultations and studies on the compensation package and rehabilitation program.

"We are doing our best to alleviate the impact on the residents," he said.

Post-clean-up plan

But Gana said compensation and rehabilitation would come only after the cleanup is finished and the actual cost of the damage is fully assessed.

Semirara village chief Reynante Lim Sr. is urging the Napocor and other government agencies to hasten the implementation of the compensation and rehabilitation programs and projects for the residents.

He said the Napocor is proposing a livelihood program on deep-sea fishing and shell gathering as alternative sources of income for the people.

Evelyn Ysuj expressed hope that when the livelihood project is implemented, women could also work so that they help their husbands earn a living.

She said they are aware that their lives would not return to the way it was before the oil spill and that the damage, even if repaired, would be permanent.

"It's like the oil that sticks in our clothes. It cannot be cleaned no matter how we wash it."

DRUMS of oil dripping their contents into mangrove areas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

POOLS of black bunker fuel dot the once pristine island.

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PNP probes mayor for alleged role in rebel raid in Surigao

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—POLICE ARE INvestigating the mayor of Lingig, Surigao del Sur on suspicion that he took part in a raid of the New People's Army on the town's police station, the chief of the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

Director General Arturo Lomibao said a team was investigating the mayor's alleged role in the raid and the PNP would file charges if the team found the mayor involved.

Lomibao said he visited the Lingig police station on Thursday.

"Before I left, I (told) the police to file corresponding charges against the mayor and other civilians who could have conspired in raiding the police station," Lomibao said in a speech here.

"Despite the efforts of our policemen to put up a gallant stand, they were overwhelmed by the NPAs. The mayor was with the (rebels), directing the NPAs," he added.

Lingig Mayor Roberto Luna earlier claimed that he was snatched by the rebels while visiting a far-flung village in the town on Sunday afternoon when the raid happened.

The NPAs, about 70 of them, used the mayor as decoy to raid the police station.

Not a single shot was fired during the raid. The rebels took off with 11 M-16 rifles, several pistols and hand grenades.

But Lomibao said they were not buying the excuse given by Luna.

"There were parts of his statement which are not credible. But these are things which I cannot discuss," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Lomibao also relieved Senior Supt. Admirante Josue, Surigao del Sur police director, and Lingig police chief Insp. Evelyn Frugalidad.

The NPAs sped off on board Luna's two vehicles which the rebels abandoned a few hundred meters from the police station.

The rebels left Luna, his bodyguards and six policemen unscathed after the raid which lasted for a few minutes.

"The mayor is being investigated to see whether or not he has liability or responsibility in the raid," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesman. *Marlon Ramos, PDI S. Luzon Bureau with a report from Luigi del Puerto in Manila*

Sayyaf hand seen in slay of top PNP spy in Sulu

JOLO, SULU—AN UNIDENTIFIED gunman shot dead the province's top police spy near the provincial police headquarters in Barangay Asturias here early yesterday.

Senior Supt. Ahirum Ajirim, provincial police chief, said Chief Insp. Henry Elumbaring had just stepped out of the police headquarters to buy bread from a nearby store when attacked from behind at about 6 a.m.

Ajirim said the suspect fired at least five shots at Elumbaring using a .45 cal. pistol.

The police official, who was instrumental for the identification and capture of several Abu Sayyaf bandits, died on the spot from five bullet wounds—one in the head and four in the back.

Ajirim said policemen responded but could only fire their guns in the air.

Flight

The suspect, he said, fled toward a residential area near the camp.

"They could not fire directly at him because it would cause undue injuries to civilians," he said.

Ajirim said policemen, who were alerted about the attack, gave chase but failed to catch up with the suspect, who might have some companions serving as lookouts.

Asked as to the possible affiliation of the suspect, Ajirim said they were still investigating.

But a police investigator said the Abu Sayyaf could be behind the killing.

He said the bandits have obviously been angered by Elumbaring's role in the government's antiterror campaign in the province.

The investigator said it could also be possible that local gangs were behind the police official's death.

Like in other predominantly Muslim areas in the country, it was easy to own guns, mostly unlicensed ones, in Sulu.

The proliferation of unlicensed guns in the province and in other areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was being blamed for the upsurge of violence in the region.

In Cotabato City, police authorities seized at least 19 unlicensed firearms from five local security agencies.

Senior Supt. Abubakar Mangelen, city police chief, said the haul was an offshoot of a police saturation drive launched on Thursday following the arrest of Norodin Salvador, a security guard working for the Priority Security Agency.

Salvador was arrested while brandishing an unlicensed revolver during a spat with two women bakery sales agents.

The incident, according to Mangelen, prompted them to conduct a surprise check on various security agencies operating in this city.

"The first five firms that the police inspected yielded a total of 19 unlicensed firearms, mostly shotguns and revolvers," Mangelen said. *Julie Alipala, Ed General and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pacquiao kin surprised by affair, son

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—MEMbers of Manny Pacquiao's family said they were surprised by the sudden appearance of Joanna Bacosa, who claims she has a son by the boxing icon.

Dionisia said his son has not confided anything to her.

Pacquiao's 56-year-old mother even refused to issue further statements.

"It would be good if you wait for Manny. Ask him about it because I don't know anything," Dionisia said.

Dionisia had just gotten out of the hospital, where she was rushed last week after collapsing.

Her doctors described her case as overfatigue.

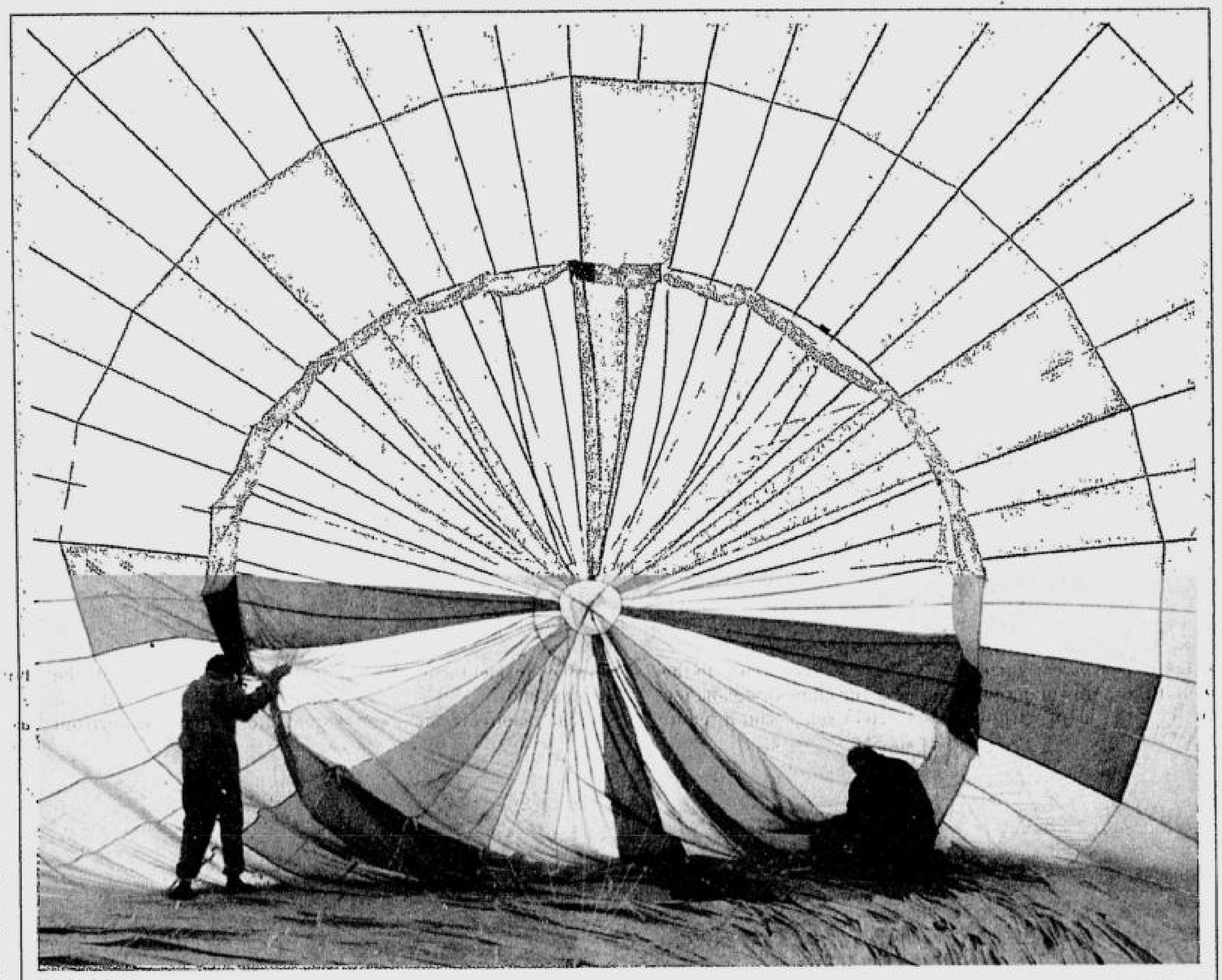
Bobby, Manny's younger brother, said he could not believe any of Bacosa's claims either.

"He had not said anything about an illegitimate child," Bobby said.

The younger Pacquiao said he might only be convinced if he would be able to talk with Bacosa or her son.

Bobby said the controversy would also be put to an end if Bacosa agrees to submit her son to a DNA test.

He said Manny would not run away from responsibility if it would be proven that he fathered the boy. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



HOT AIR JAY DIRECTO/AFP

Swedish balloonist Karl Silverstolpe rigs his hot air balloon to participate in a festival of hot air balloons at the Clark Special Economic Zone which is held every year. Silverstolpe usually takes tourists on balloon rides in Switzerland.

Solcom chief sees collapse of NPA base

LUCENA CITY—THE TOP OFFICIAL of the military's Southern Luzon Command predicted the immediate collapse of the New People's Army operations in Quezon's Bondoc Peninsula following the recent attacks by government forces on guerrilla bases in the area.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom chief, claimed the rebel's Guerrilla Front 41, being maintained by the NPA's Maria Teresa de Leon Command, suffered immeasurable defeat in the series of attacks by the military in the towns of Mulanay, Catanauan and San Narciso, long considered as the main base of the communist rebels.

The military reported that at least 10 NPA rebels have been killed in several clashes with government forces in the area backed by Air Force helicopters, from Sunday until Thursday.

"Government forces suffered no casualties in the series of encounters," the Solcom report added.

Three of the alleged NPA casualties, one of whom was identified as Romy Llovit, were brought to Mulanay town on Thursday.

Cabuay said the other bodies were still being brought down from the encounter sites. "We will exhume two of the bodies in Barangay Tagbakin in Catanauan town to be able to identify them. We were informed by the villagers that they already buried two of the NPA casualties."

Last year, Cabuay also vowed to crush the communist insurgents in Southern Luzon in the next three years.

He said soldiers were still searching the escape routes of the fleeing NPA for more bodies. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Fire wrecks bid to cook biggest 'empanada'

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—ORGANIZERS OF THE PAMULINAWEN Festival here on Wednesday failed to display what they planned to be their biggest *empanada* ever due to a fire that destroyed the metal plate that would have cooked the traditional meal.

But they cooked at least 2,000 pieces of *empanada*, said to be the biggest produced in volume, as the city government opened its "Dulang" food festival on Wednesday.

The feast, a component of the annual city fiesta, is a key event in the month long celebrations hosted by the city government. Laoag dubbed its annual festivity Pamulinawen, which was derived from the popular Ilocano song.

The *empanada* is the Ilocanos' answer to the Mexicans' taco. The one-dish meal is made of grated papaya, mongo, egg and *longganiza* (native sausage), stuffed inside a flour crust and deep-fried in simmering oil.

SAYANG NAMAN!

Displeased

Chevylle Fariñas, wife of Mayor Michael Fariñas and city tourism council chair, did not hide her displeasure when the city failed to showcase the biggest *empanada* in the Ilocos region.

"We went through a lot of trouble preparing for this year's food festival. It was unfortunate that we could not come up with the biggest *empanada* this year because of an accident," Mrs. Fariñas told the festival crowd on Wednesday.

She was referring to a fire that broke out while the festival's food committee was about to cook the *empanada*. The specially assembled huge metal plate that would have been used to cook the *empanada* was reduced to twisted iron when it caught fire while it was heating up.

No one was hurt in the accident but organizers failed to save the metal plate.

Expectations

"We might have fallen short of your expectations by our failure to showcase the biggest *empanada*, but we won't give up easily and cancel the event altogether," Mrs. Fariñas said.

Mayor Fariñas chose to highlight the *empanada* this year to promote other Ilocano traditional food products like the Ilocos *longganiza* and vinegar.

The ingredients that would have been used for the giant *empanada* were instead used for the more than 2,000 pieces of the meal that were put on display at a basketball court for the festival.

"We may not have the biggest *empanada*, but we certainly have the biggest *empanada* in volume," Mrs. Fariñas said.

The event organizers used 50 kilograms of *longganiza*, 10 sacks of papaya, five sacks of mongo, 30 cans of cooking oil and 30 trays of eggs for the *empanada*.

Oral history traces the *empanada*'s origin to Batac town. *Empanada* production is a steady business in various Ilocos towns and provided competition to fastfood chains.

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Customs warns travelers: 'Don't bring Bangkok pills'

By Nikko Dizon

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) AT THE Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) warned travelers yesterday not to buy "diet or reducing pills" in Bangkok, Thailand.

Two Filipino women travelers were apprehended recently for possession of so-called Bangkok pills.

Mimel Talusan, chief of the BOC arrival operations division, said, "(These tablets) may be sold over the counter in Bangkok but could be regulated or prohibited drugs here..."

Talusan said a passenger should have a certificate from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to bring in any kind of drug into the country.

Another Filipino woman, identified as Purificacion Gonzales, was arrested Thursday for allegedly bringing in some two kilos of items that looked like Bangkok pills, reputedly weight-reduction drugs.

Earlier, a businesswoman was arrested for having some 16 kilos of suspected Ecstasy and Bangkok pills.

Police question husband on massacre

By DJ Yap

THE HUSBAND OF THE WOMAN who was killed the other day with her 7-month-old daughter and mother in Quezon City was taken into police custody.

But investigators said Nelson Borja was not yet a suspect in the deaths of his wife Jonah, 32; daughter Joanna, and mother-in-law Narcisa Elpidez, 65. All three were stabbed inside the Elpidez house in North Fairview.

Borja was brought to Camp Karingal but stayed outside the detention cell.

He would be released after 36 hours if no evidence linking him to the crime was found, said PO2 Edwin dela Cruz of the Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division.

The motive for the killing had not been established, Dela Cruz said. He added that the police was also still interviewing Elpidez's 23-year-old boarder, who was not identified.

The victims were discovered inside the Elpidez house at Block 213 Lot 21 Yuan St., Phase 8, North Fairview before noon Thursday.

Borja told police his wife and daughter left their house at 8 a.m. to visit his mother-in-law, who lived just a block away. At 11:30 a.m., a relative called to tell him of the tragic news.

Dela Cruz said they would verify Borja's story.

The investigator said robbery did not seem to be the motive since nothing of value was reported missing from the house.

Tight security for Magdalo hearing

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SOLDIERS "TOOK OVER" THE old Makati City Hall building on JP Rizal corner F. Zobel Street for two hours yesterday morning.

Coup d'etat charges against Magdalo soldiers will be held Valentine's Day at the old session hall on the third floor.

The soldiers arrived at 7 a.m. in the four-story building and posted themselves at the perimeter, entry and exit points, and all the floors. Special attention was given to the third floor.

Hearing of cases against some 31 soldiers who participated in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny has been going on for more than two years now. But yesterday was the first time the military staged a drill to prepare for a Magdalo hearing, said lead defense counsel Roel Pulido.

The Feb. 14 hearing would be the first since the recapture of escaped Magdalo leader Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, and the Jan. 17 escape of four rebel soldiers from Fort Bonifacio, including Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, and 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento.

The military had asked city administrator Nicanor Santiago for parking reservations on Tuesday for some 30 military vehicles.

Lt. Col. Alexis Gopico said the National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) had been designated to centralize security arrangements for 25 Magdalo soldiers detained in separate military facilities.

Santiago said the military could use the old building's surrounding streets, adding allowing military vehicles to occupy the public parking area "will greatly inconvenience [City Hall's] clients and employees."

He added that the military's security plan should not disrupt operations and cause inconvenience to the public.

Hot Babes engage in catfight

TINADTAD NILA KAMI NG PASA ! HUHUHU!

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TWO VIVA HOT BABES, WHO were hurt in a catfight the other day with a customer of a disco bar in Taguig, went to the city's police headquarters midnight yesterday to report the incident.

Isabella Gomez and Zarah Lopez reportedly attacked a certain Jennifer Baltazar early Thursday morning for allegedly pushing Gomez on her way to the comfort room of The Embassy at the Global City, Fort Bonifacio.

Earlier, Baltazar's group and the sexy stars reportedly kept bumping each other on the dance floor.

Outside the disco, the three reportedly engaged in slapping, scratching and hair-pulling.

UPAA nomination period extended

THE NOMINATION PERIOD FOR the 23 members of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) Board of Directors for 2006-2009 has been extended to Feb. 13. This was announced by the UPAA Committee on Elections. All UPAA members in good standing may vote. Contact the UPAA secretariat at 9298327, 9206871, 9206868 or (telefax) 9206875 or e-mail up.alum.assn@pacific.net.ph.

Operator of crane may be held liable for driver's death

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAN OPERATING THE crane that crashed its boom on a parked vehicle in Rockwell Center in Makati City, killing the driver, could be held liable, traffic police said yesterday.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and damage to property might be lodged against Jaime Senisen, who allegedly lost control of a crane (model TR500) he was maneuvering inside a parking lot across upscale Powerplant Mall after 4 p.m. Thursday.

Initial investigation showed that Senisen moved the heavy equipment without first ensuring that safety procedures were followed, crashing the boom on a Ford Explorer.

"Senisen, without knowledge of his supervisor, boarded the involved crane and rotated the cross boom without the support of the crane's rigger jack. In the process, the crane tilted and fell on its right side," said a report by traffic investigator SPO1 Miguel Descalzo.

The boom crashed into the parked Ford Explorer, killing its 38-year-old driver Cecilio Casuncad on the spot. Descalzo said Casuncad worked as a driver for Parman Inc. The wrecked Explorer belonged to Joel Ferrer, of the same company.

Senisen reportedly ran away after the incident. He is now the subject of police manhunt operations, said the Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit.

Rockwell Land public relations officer Gerry Zorrilla told reporters Thursday that heavy equipment of private firm Hillmars used a portion of the parking lot at the corner of Amorsolo and Waterfront Drives in Rockwell Center as a staging area, sharing the space with private vehicles.

In a statement, Rockwell Land said Hillmars had "offered... full cooperation with the investigating authorities and (was committed) to cover both the cost of the vehicle owner's damaged property, as well as the funeral and burial expenses of the fatality."

Pasig raid a slap on Mayor Eusebio

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE RAID YESTERDAY AT THE "shabu market" (shabu is the street name for methamphetamine hydrochloride), practically within spitting distance of the Pasig City Hall, was a big slap on Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

How was it possible for the shabu market inside a 1,000-square-meter compound in Barangay Palatiw to have existed for several years without the knowledge of the police and, well, the honorable mayor?

A resident in the area I interviewed said the compound had been there for several years now. From the compound, one can see the back of the City Hall. Until yesterday, large-scale drug pushing was going on right under the mayor's nose.

Eusebio learned about the raid by policemen from Camp Crame and Camp Bagong Diwa after he noticed a big crowd of onlookers near City Hall. No member of the Pasig police took part in the raid.

"*Ipapasunog ko ito* (I'll have this burned down)," he told his aide as he inspected the compound. The about 50 shanties inside the compound sold shabu openly. The mayor should have burned down the place a long time ago. But he was clueless about its existence, probably because he was too busy politicking.

Outside the compound is a mosque. Most of the people selling drugs in the "shabu market" are Maranaws or Muslims from Lanao. One is tempted to ask why there is large-scale drug pushing in all Muslim communities in Metro Manila.

Inside the compound, I saw an *imam* (Muslim priest) asking the raiders if he could leave as it was time for prayer. He was prevented from leaving.

Senior Supt. Raul Medina, Pasig City police chief, looked very pale when he arrived at the scene after the raid and became paler when Director General Art Lomibao, chief of the National Police, confronted him about the existence of the market. "It's impossible for you not to know," Lomibao told Medina.

Lomibao told me later he was going to relieve Medina and replace the entire Pasig police force.

I was at the scene from the start of the raid when 100 members of the Special Action Force (SAF), in full battle regalia, swooped down on Barangay Palatiw. They came in three commercial delivery vans hired by Camp Crame.

The SAF troopers came ahead of some 50 members of the antidrugs task force headed by Director Marcelo Ele Jr., who personally commanded the lightning raid.

It would have been impossible for a big group of raiders to escape detection if uniformed and full-armed commandos used marked police vehicles. The raid wouldn't have been successful.

Ele planned every detail, from the employment of SAF troopers to having ambulances go with the raiders in case some cops were wounded in a firefight. He even had some social workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development accompany the raiding force to take custody of children inside the compound.

Of the more than 200 persons arrested, about 20 or so were minors. Some were brought there by their parents who got their regular dose of shabu from the compound. The others were children of drug pushers.

In the next column, I will tell you how my brother Erwin and I told Lomibao about the existence of the shabu market in the heart of Pasig City.

METROBRIEFS

Roxas Blvd. rerouting

THE MANILA City government is rerouting traffic for the 3rd Lovapalooza kissing festival tonight on Roxas Boulevard. Two lanes of Roxas Boulevard's northbound lane will be closed to traffic beginning 12 noon today. Both northbound and southbound lanes will be closed from 5 p.m. onwards. Tens of thousands of couples are expected to troop to Rajah Sulayman Park and Baywalk for Lovapalooza, in celebration of Valentine's Day. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said the event would be held simultaneously in Angeles City, Cebu and Davao from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight. In partnership with Unilever Philippines, Atienza said the city government would present song and dance numbers from leading performers. *Margaux C.Ortiz*

Bad joke

A 71-YEAR-OLD Japanese man who joked he was carrying bombs was arrested yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Centennial Terminal 2. Yasuo Ishii of Chiba, Japan was supposed to leave for Narita via Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR 432. But, as he stood in line for final security check, he was overheard saying, "I have two bombs." He was immediately taken into custody and, as of press time, was being investigated by police authorities.

Nikko Dizon

Suspect kills self

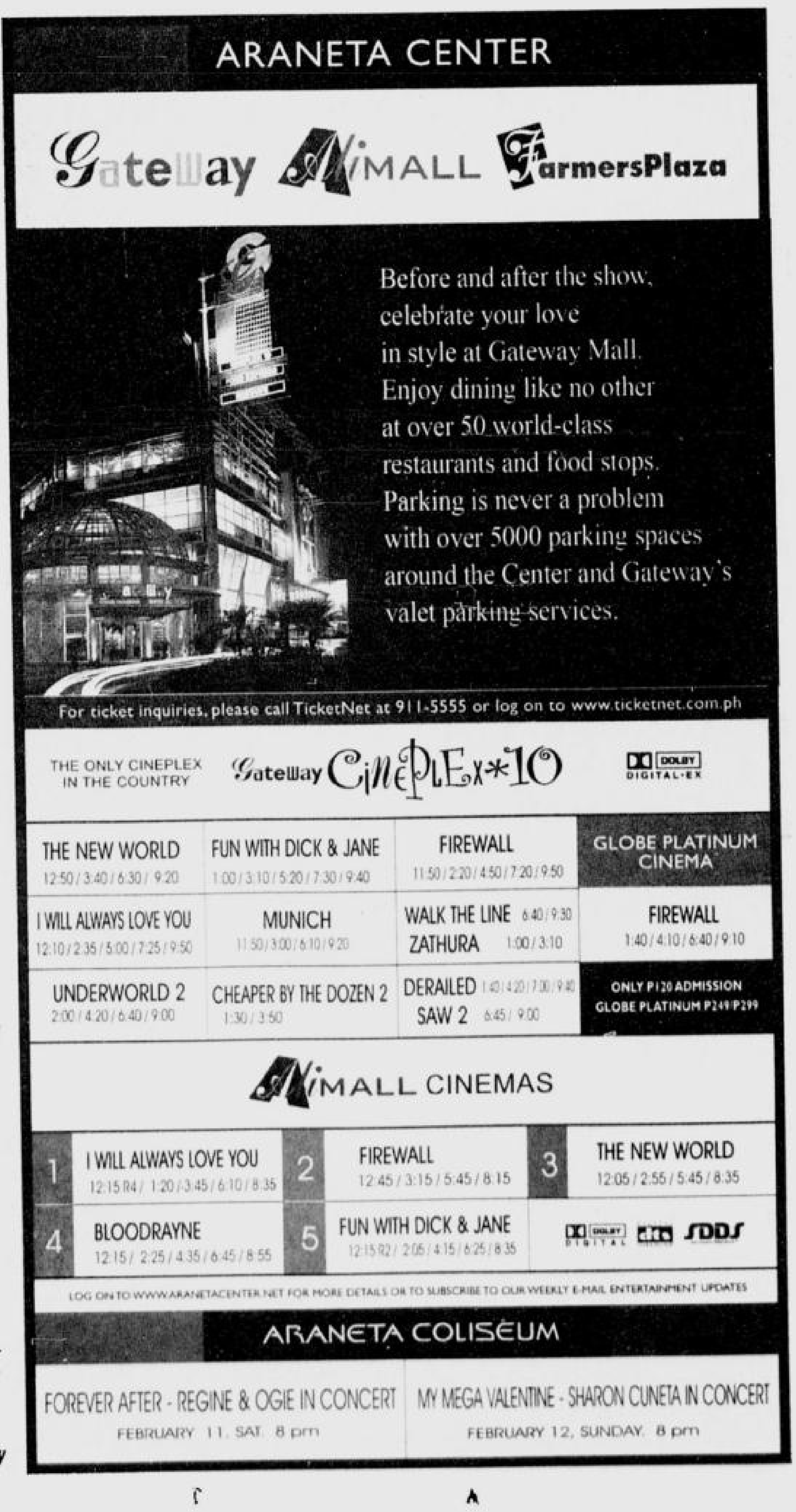
A MAN accused of rape hanged himself late Thursday evening inside the Caloocan City police detention cell. Police identified the suicide as Rene Durante, 38 ,married, resident of 813 Purok 2 Bgy 185, Malaria, Caloocan City. Durante reportedly looped a leather belt around his neck and tied one end to the cell's iron gate. A police officer who refused to be identified, said policemen assigned in the detention cell could be held liable for the incident.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Enforcer nabbed

A QUEZON CITY traffic enforcer allegedly extorting money from erring motorists, was arrested by police in an entrapment operation Thursday night. Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, chief of Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID), said they received reports suspect Renardo Cruz, assigned in Balintawak, demanded a minimum of P800 from erring motorists. RIID operatives arrested Cruz at around 7 p.m. Thursday after the suspect accepted marked money from a police officer posing as a driver, said Rojas. Administrative and criminal cases will be filed against Cruz at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Jocelyn R. Uy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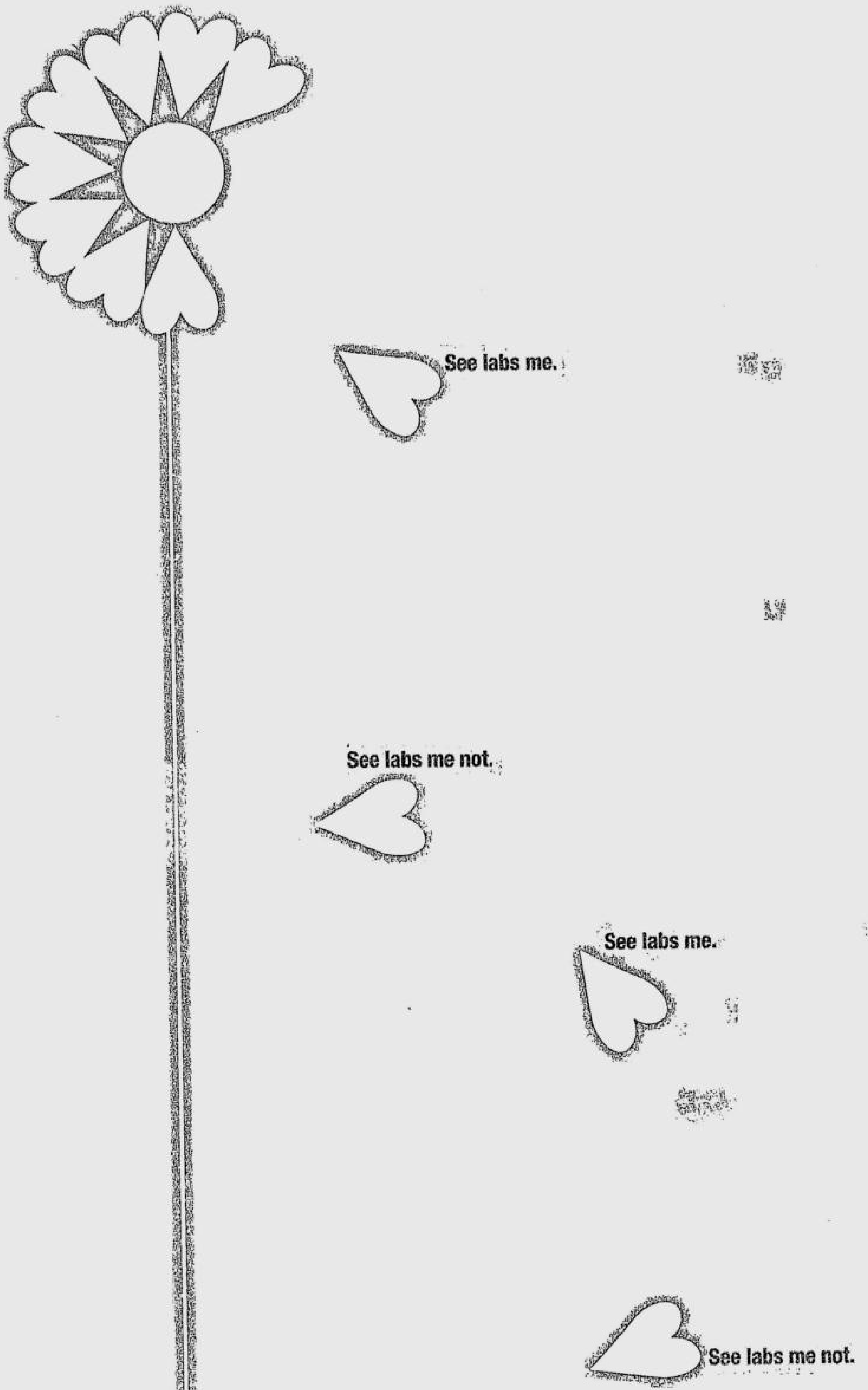
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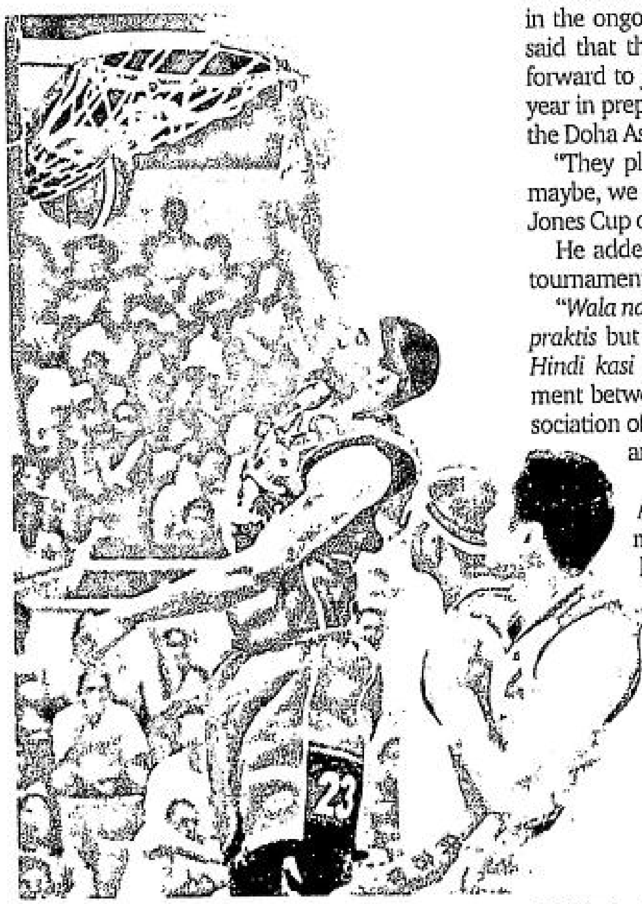
PBA-backed National pool back to work

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL TRAINING POOL, WHICH TOOK A long break to give way to the Southeast Asian Games, has quietly returned to camp, although it was not clear which tournament it would be competing in.

National coach Chot Reyes called back the national team candidates to practice last Monday after getting a signal from PBA commissioner Noli Eala, who said the country's indefinite suspension imposed by the international basketball federation (Fiba) might soon be lifted.



RED Bull's James Penny slams the ball in Game 2 of the PBA finals last night. RYAN LIM

Eala has been presiding over a series of meetings with local basketball stakeholders, including BAP president Joey Lina, in an effort to form a unified organization acceptable to both the Philippine Olympic Committee and Fiba.

Fiba, through its secretary general Patrick Baumann, has been demanding that the POC, which expelled the BAP last year, lift its expulsion order or cause the formation of an organization acceptable to all concerned.

Not much noise was made about the return to camp, which was confirmed yesterday during the Scoop sa Kamayan session on Padre Faura.

Some 40 amateur and professional players have joined the practice with the PBA-reinforced Philippine team at the Moro Lorenzo Gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, said pool member Ren Ren Ritualo.

Team officials and players have yet to be informed which tournament it will be fielded in, but Ritualo of Air21, considered as one of the strongest candidates for a slot in the RP team, said the first practice of the pool went the usual rigid way.

"*Maraming dumating* (Many candidates showed up) for the first practice last Monday, mostly from Talk 'N Text like (Asi) Taulava, (Jimmy) Alapag, Mark Telan and from Alaska like (Don) Allado and (Mike) Cortez and several amateurs," said Ritualo. "It was like a reunion because the other coaches, like Tim Cone, Binky Favis and Norman Black were also there."

Ritualo, who is also one of the frontrunners in the race for Best Player of the Conference honors in the ongoing San Mig-PBA Fiesta Conference, said that the national coaching staff is looking forward to joining at least five tournaments this year in preparation for a possible participation in the Doha Asian Games in December.

"They plan to play in the Stankovic Cup or, maybe, we could go back to Las Vegas, or try the Jones Cup or play in Brunei," he disclosed.

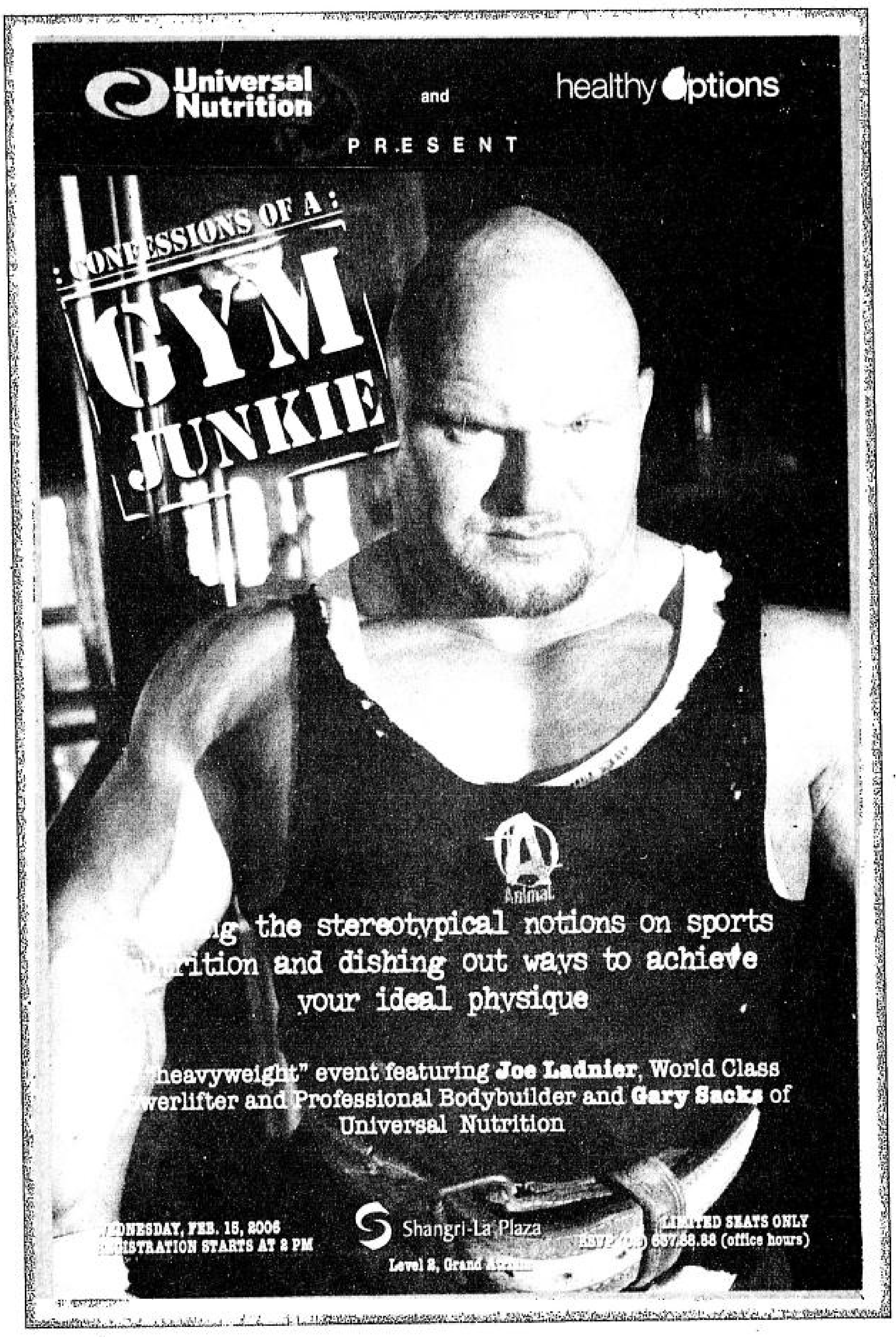
He added coach Reyes did not specify which tournament they would be going to.

"*Wala naman siyang sinabi kung para saan ang praktis* but most probably for the Asian Games. *Hindi kasi kasama ang* Asian Games *sa* agreement between the PBA and BAP (Basketball Association of the Philippines), but the options *daw* are open," Ritualo said.

Also at yesterday's session were Air21 coach Bo Perasol, Ritualo's teammate Ranidel de Ocampo and Magnolia coach Koy Banal.

Ritualo said the training pool now includes some of the best amateurs like LA Tenorio, Joe Devance, Kelly Williams and Robbie Reyes, who all attended Monday's workout.

Eala had earlier announced that the main concern of his group, which also includes representatives from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Philippine Basketball League, is to cause the lifting of the Fiba suspension without waiting for the September meeting of the Fiba central board.



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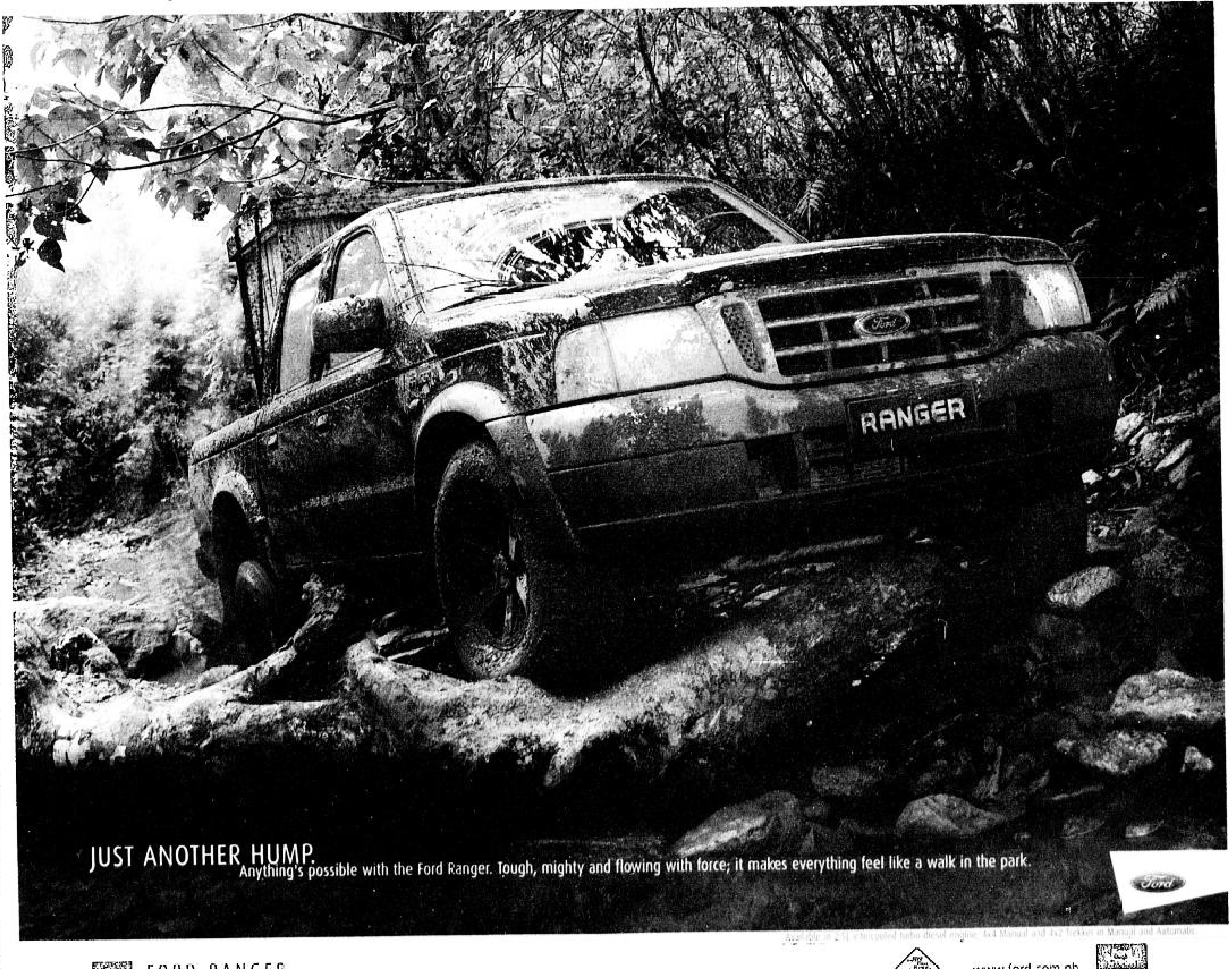

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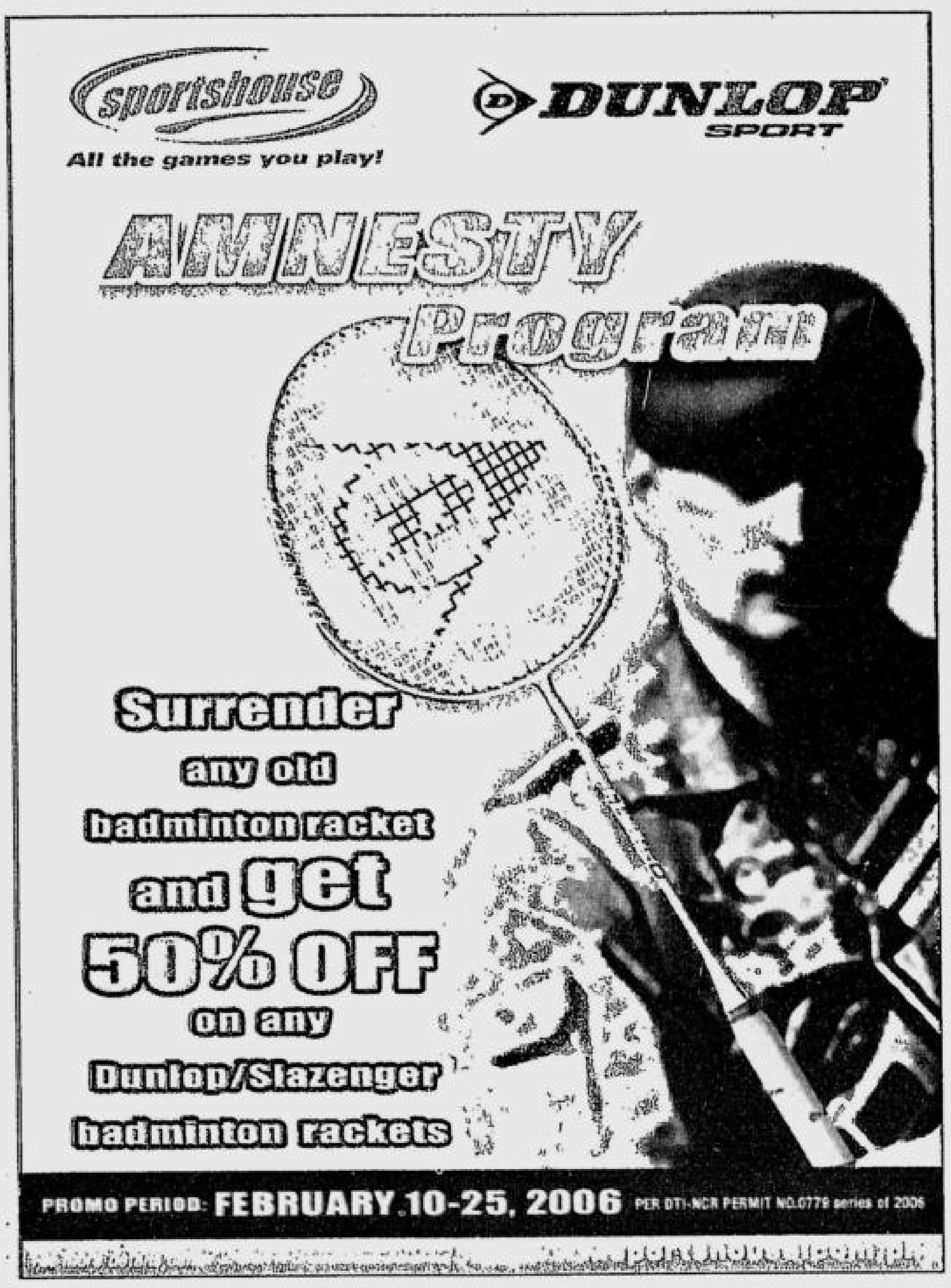
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Abaring-Dumandan grabs 1-stroke lead

By Jong Arcano

SILANG, CAVITE—RICHARD ABAring and Marvin Dumandan kept their mistakes to a minimum amid another tough battle with the gale-force winds to become the third pair in as many days to hold the lead in the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am here yesterday.

Abaring and Dumandan, a member of the gold-medal winning Southeast Asian Games squad, assembled a 4-over-par 75 for a 54-hole aggregate of 228 at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club. They stood a shot clear of Lito Rempojo-Gene Bondoc going into today's last round.

Bondoc banged in a zigzagging, downhill birdie putt from 18 feet on the last hole to preserve a 76 for his team and keep their bid for the crown afloat.

DUMANDAN and Abaring: Third leaders in three days. ERIK ARAZAS

Defending champions Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco struggled to a 78, but they are certainly not out of the running. The bosom buddies who are gunning for a rare "three-peat" hobbled home with a 41 and fell to solo third at 230 in the P1.7 million event presented by Bert Bravo's U-Bix Corp. and Konica Minolta Technologies of Japan.

"It's anybody's ball game tomorrow," said Cantada. "We are just two shots down."

Just a day after only seven teams broke 80 in the second round, 14 of the 105, two-man teams scored in the 70's yesterday as winds, which blew again at about 55 kph, resulted in a big shakeup in the standings.

Zaldy Salvador and Rufino Bayron's 79 put them five shots off at 233, with Ronnie Casas-Ferdie Aunzo (76), Juvic Pagunsan-Dennis Canoy (75), Koreans Lee Seong Ki-Ahn Woong Jin (77) and Jess Casas-Boyet Saragoza (82) making up a logjam at 236.

Timing will be key, says Viloria

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF BRIAN VILOria stops Mexico's Jose Antonio Aguirre in a snap but, just the same, the Ilocos-born World Boxing Council (WBC) light-flyweight champion is ready to mix it up for 12 rounds.

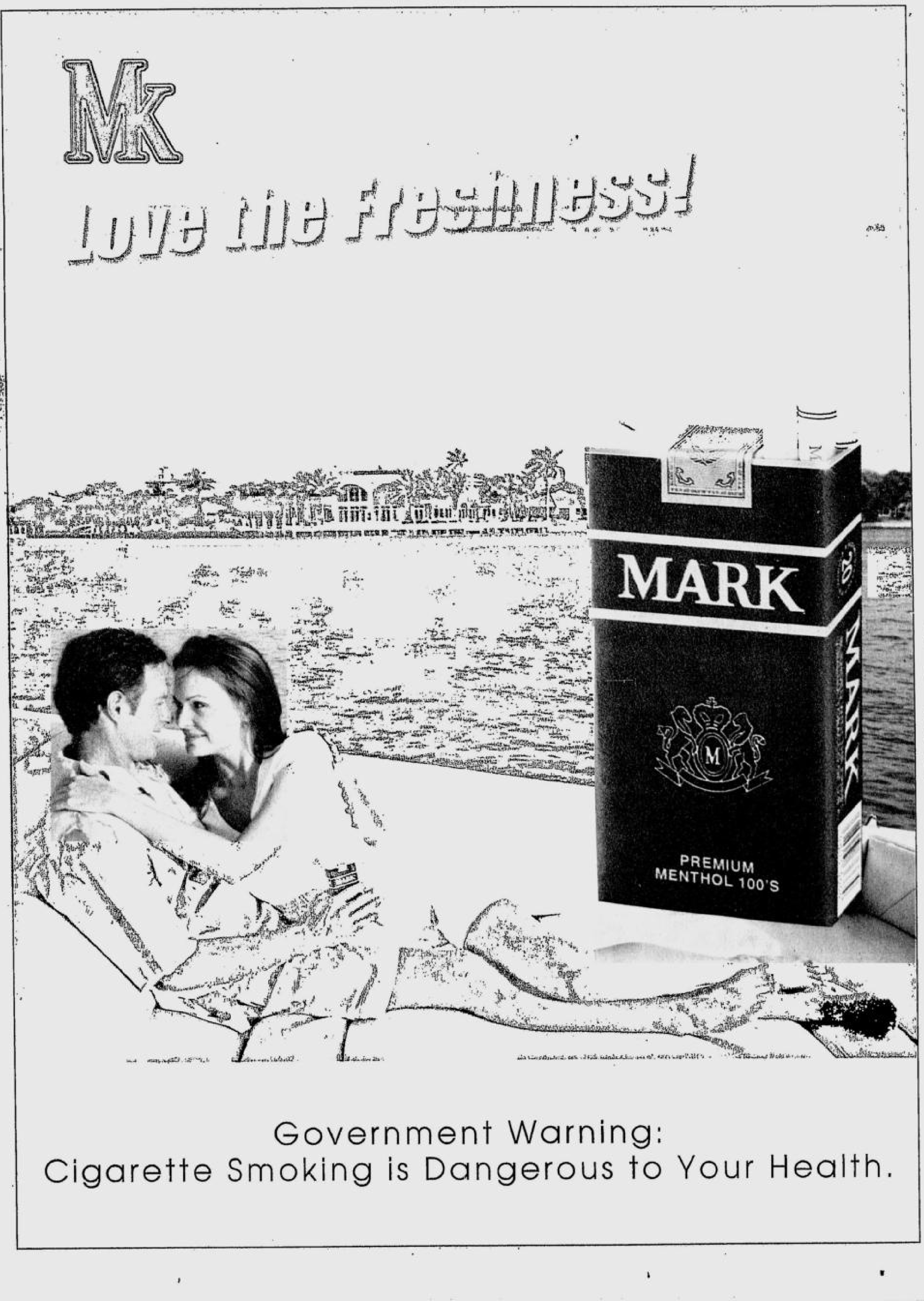
"I want to win convincingly," said Viloria, undefeated in 18 bouts with 12 stoppages. "I'm in great shape. The key here would be my timing."

Viloria has a million-dollar reason to put on an impressive show in his duel with his Mexican challenger at the Aladdin Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

The proud son of an Ilocano couple from Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, is eyeing a big-money clash with WBC flyweight interim champion Jorge Arce of Mexico.

While Viloria wants to end the bout quickly, champion trainer Freddie Roach guaranteed that the fighter called "Hawaiian Punch" is ready for a marathon slugfest.

Viloria took the 108-lb title from another Mexican, Eric Ortiz, who captured the then vacant throne with a seven-round KO of Aguirre in March last year.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San Miguel gives more rewards to SEAG medalists

By Musong R. Castillo

SAN MIGUEL CORP. YESTERDAY GAVE out cash incentives and merchandise totaling P5 million to all members of Team Philippines who won medals in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was also present during the ceremonies at San Miguel's Malate offices, and the country's foremost sports patron was also able to solicit support for the national athletes that could go beyond their playing years.

Ramon S. Ang, SMC chief operating officer, said that Mr. Arroyo made a request for the long-term benefit of the athletes before the award ceremonies started.

Ang told the gathering that San Miguel would be ready to give the athletes business opportunities and that "off-hand, the best thing for you to do is go into franchising (San Miguel products)."

After giving P100 million to the First Gentleman Sports Foundation that took care of the athletes' training in the lead-up to the SEAG, SaMC gave away P20,000 to each gold winner, P10,000 for silver and P5,000 for bronze, aside from gift certificates.

The Philippines won a total of 113 gold, 84 silver and 96 bronze medals in winning the SEAG overall crown for the first time.

Spring dribblers down SSC Stags

PICAA OPEN CHAMPION SPRING COOKING Oil trounced NCAA campaigner San Sebastian College, 67-58, to close out its campaign with an even 2-2 record in the 2006 National Interclub basketball championship at the CP Tinga gym in Taguig City.

The Cooking Oil Masters of shooting champ Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and coach Efren "Yong" Garcia leaned on gunner Ariel de Castro to roll back the Stags in the five-team tournament.

De Castro finished with a team-high 17 points for Spring, which led from start to finish.

Overshadowed by Spring's triumph was University of Perpetual Help, which edged Chosun University of Korea, 70-69.

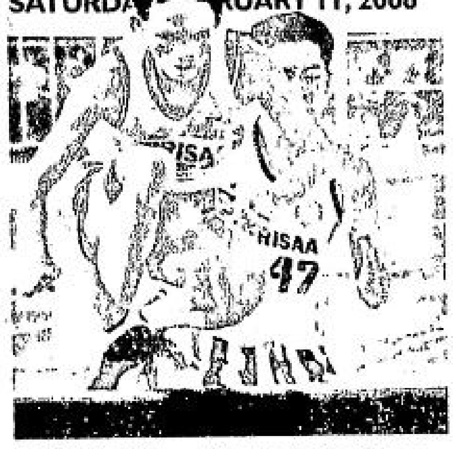
Pacquiao-Antonio prevails

THE COMBINED ENTRY OF BOXING HERO MANNY Pacquiao and Patrick Antonio, Pacman Complexor 3000 JU AS, topped the recent Pacquiao Big Event 8-Cock Derby at San Juan Coliseum. Pacquiao and Antonio fielded a combination of imported gamefowls as well as fighters from Sagupaan Farms and ASF Farms. Three other entries with 6-2 slates shared the title: Against All Odds of Gerry Ramos, Ara and Richard of Gov. Tony Kho and JU Listana of Allan Siaco.

Sta. Ana fastest-win event on

A CASH POT OF P150,000 IS AT STAKE STARTING at 10 a.m. today in the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan at the Sta. Ana Cockpit on AP Reyes Avenue, Makati City. The fastest win champion will get P30,000; second placer P20,000; third P10,000; fourth P8,000; fifth P7,000; sixth to 10th, P6,000; 11th to 20th, P3,000; 21st to 25th, P2,000 and slowest winner, P5,000. Last week, the Romy II entry posted the fas-test time of 12.44 seconds to bag the prize. Derby host is Boy Javier. He will be assisted by Butchoy Olano.

West Visayas nears Prisaa crown



ALQUIN Bolivar of Southern Tagalog en route to the 3,000-meter steeplechase gold. RAY B. ZAMBRANO, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—WESTERN VISAYAS CONtinued to dominate the Private Schools Athletic Association National Games here as it snatched the crowns in swimming, badminton, sepak takraw and women's athletics.

Western Visayas bets firmed up their bid for a repeat overall victory by netting 62 gold, 63 silver and 46 bronze medals as of yesterday.

After five days of action, Southern Mindanao trails Western Visayas with a gold-silver-bronze haul of 51-39-48. Central Visayas was in third place (44–27-46), followed by Southern Tagalog (27-32-21) and Ilocos (24-27-17).

Only the medals in baseball, basketball, volleyball and taekwondo will be disputed as the games wrap up today.

Western Visayas' badminton players, led by Anelyn Alba, Wilma Elizar, Rosalie Soberano and Rila Batuigas, grabbed 10 golds for the women's team.

Soberano also topped the women's singles and the mixed doubles, where she teamed up with Alex Borromeo. Alba and Elizar won in the women's doubles, while Ralph Nelson Cahandig topped the men's singles division.

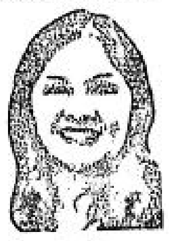
Sepak takraw players Julius Tingson, Gary John Apuhin, Archiel Blancada, Raymond Jay Cuesta, Archiebal Ray Mueda, Sherwin Perez, Jazzmar Osano, Leonardo Lumawag Jr. and Robert Conrad Villamor also ruled their events.

Bicol clinched the chess title with seven gold medals. Ezraline Alvarez, Julie Pearl Arancia, Emerlinda San Andres and Maria Veron Camposano pooled their talents for the women's team crown.

Perennial Prisaa doormats Ilocos is enjoying its best form yet in the games' 53-year history with 24 golds thus far.

The topic when Pacman signed up with SMC

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

I ARRIVED VERY late for the press conference announcing the newly forged partnership between boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao and San Miguel Corp., missing the interview with the national icon, who has also become controversial of late.

I had no regrets though. In fact, I consider myself lucky because I was invited by former PBA chair and Purefoods governor Butch Alejo to sit in his table where I got the opportunity to meet two new PBA governors who have never been introduced to the PBA sports media.

Danny Navarro, Ginebra governor, is president of Ginebra San Miguel Inc. while Bobby Huang, Coke board representative, is president of Coca Cola Bottlers Phils., Inc. Also with us in the table was Tino Galang, president of San Miguel Beer, but it is Eli Capacio who is assigned to sit on the PBA board.

Like Butch Alejo, former Purefoods president, Eli used to be connected with Purefoods.

The new PBA governors said they have not met any of the scribes because they have not attended a single board meeting, so far.

I could tell, though, that the men in the table all had a passion for basketball because they were all asking Butch for tickets to the Purefoods-Red Bull title series.

San Miguel's head honchos were also very interesting to talk with. They were down to earth, very bright and animated. Of course, they all had to be. Otherwise they wouldn't be in their current position.

You'll never guess what we discussed at length. It wasn't anything about Pacquiao, or the PBA, or big business. It was how to quit smoking.

Last Wednesday was Bobby Huang's second successful day without the habit.

* * *

Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo is *numero uno* in the statistical race for Best Player of the Conference honors after the San Mig-PBA Fiesta Cup semifinal series.

If I may say so, it's a star-studded Top 5 cast. Number two on the list is Air 21's RenRen Ritualo, followed by Enrico Villanueva of Red Bull who jumped from 8th to third place. Ginebra's Mark Caguioa is in 4th spot while Purefoods' James Yap is in fifth.

Now, who among these guys do you think will end up with the trophy?

Hard to tell, right?

* * *

HOOPVINE: A *mestizo*-looking Purefoods cager is said to be sugary sweet with Danica Sotto, daughter of Vic Sotto and Dina Bonnevie. I know the player is single but I'm not sure if he's unattached. He's a deadringer for Hollywood actor Ted Danson… Three popular PBA cagers are said to be vying for the attention of actress Pauline Luna, with an Air21 player having the advantage over the other two… This Express cager who I bumped into at the Araneta Coliseum last Wednesday has denied that he is in pursuit of the pretty lady. His teammate, who is in the running for PBA Best Player of the Conference honors, has also issued the same denial. I don't dare ask the third in the triad because he's always with his girlfriend. His team was booted out of the semis... Last Saturday over Radio dzME, a PBL fan called to ask if I knew the identity of this popular PBL cager who had (HORRORS!!!) impregnated three girls all at the same time. I thought the call was a hoax until a respected PBL habitué texted to identify the very tall, very prolific fellow. One of the victims, he said, is the daughter of a coach… Gosh, everything comes in threes these days… Congratulations to Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero who we can now call "Doc." Mikee told us that he recently completed his doctorate in management from La Salle (academics) and the International Academy of Management (dissertation) after eight long years. Of course, he will celebrate the occasion with a big blowout for all his friends… Before I forget, if you haven't decided where and how to celebrate Valentine's Day, there are two love concerts to choose from on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. One is the Zombies show at the Ynares Center where we can expect to see broadcaster Quinito Henson doing the emceeing, being the acknowledged expert on British bands. The other is the Andy Williams show at the Araneta Coliseum.

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Choi zooms ahead in JW tilt

PERTH, AUSTRALIA—KOREAN KJ CHOI SET the pace early on the second day of the $2.1 million Johnnie Walker Classic Friday, racing to a four-shot lead after the morning rounds.

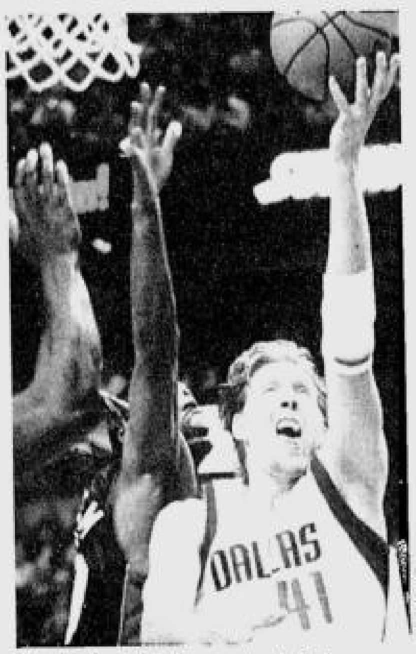
The former powerlifter shot four birdies on the back nine and two on the front to come in at six-under par 66, making him 13-under after two rounds at The Vines Resort and Country Club.

Level at second place were defending champion Adam Scott and fellow Australian Tony Carolan, both at nine-under after rounds of 71 and 69 respectively.

Scott, the world number 10, started the day at eight-under after he and American Kevin Stadler both ripped up the course with first-round 64s.

Among those scheduled to tee off later in the day were South African Retief Goosen, and US Open champ Michael Campbell, both at 72. *AFP*

Mavs cool Heat, pad streak to 13


REUTERS

DIRK Nowitzki gets the job done.

NEW YORK—THE DALLAS Mavericks extended their hot streak to 13 games on Thursday with a convincing, 112-76, win over the Miami Heat.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and Jason Terry added 16 points for the Mavericks, who moved to within one win of equaling their franchise record for consecutive wins.

Dallas (39-10) has not allowed 100 points in all 13 of those wins, also a franchise record. The Mavericks have not lost or allowed 100 points since a 117-115 loss at New York to the Knicks on Jan. 11.

Dallas blew the game open with a season-best 38 points in the third quarter, 89-63. Nowitzki and Terry didn't play in the fourth quarter.

Josh Howard, Jerry Stackhouse and Keith Van Horn each added 14 points for the Mavs, who won 14 straight games in 2002-03.

It was the worst loss of the season for the Heat, who had won five of their previous six coming in.

Shaquille O'Neal led Miami with 23 points and Dwyane Wade added 16 points, snapping his streak of 11 straight games with at least 20 points.

In Sacramento, Kevin Martin had 23 points and eight rebounds as the Kings romped over the Chicago Bulls, 98-80.

Mike Bibby added 20 points for the Kings, while Shareef Abdur-Rahim chipped in with 15.

Andres Nocioni and Darius Songaila both scored 14 points for the Bulls. *Reuters*

SOLAR Sports will air the San Antonio-New Jersey tiff at 8:30 a.m. with a replay at 8 p.m.

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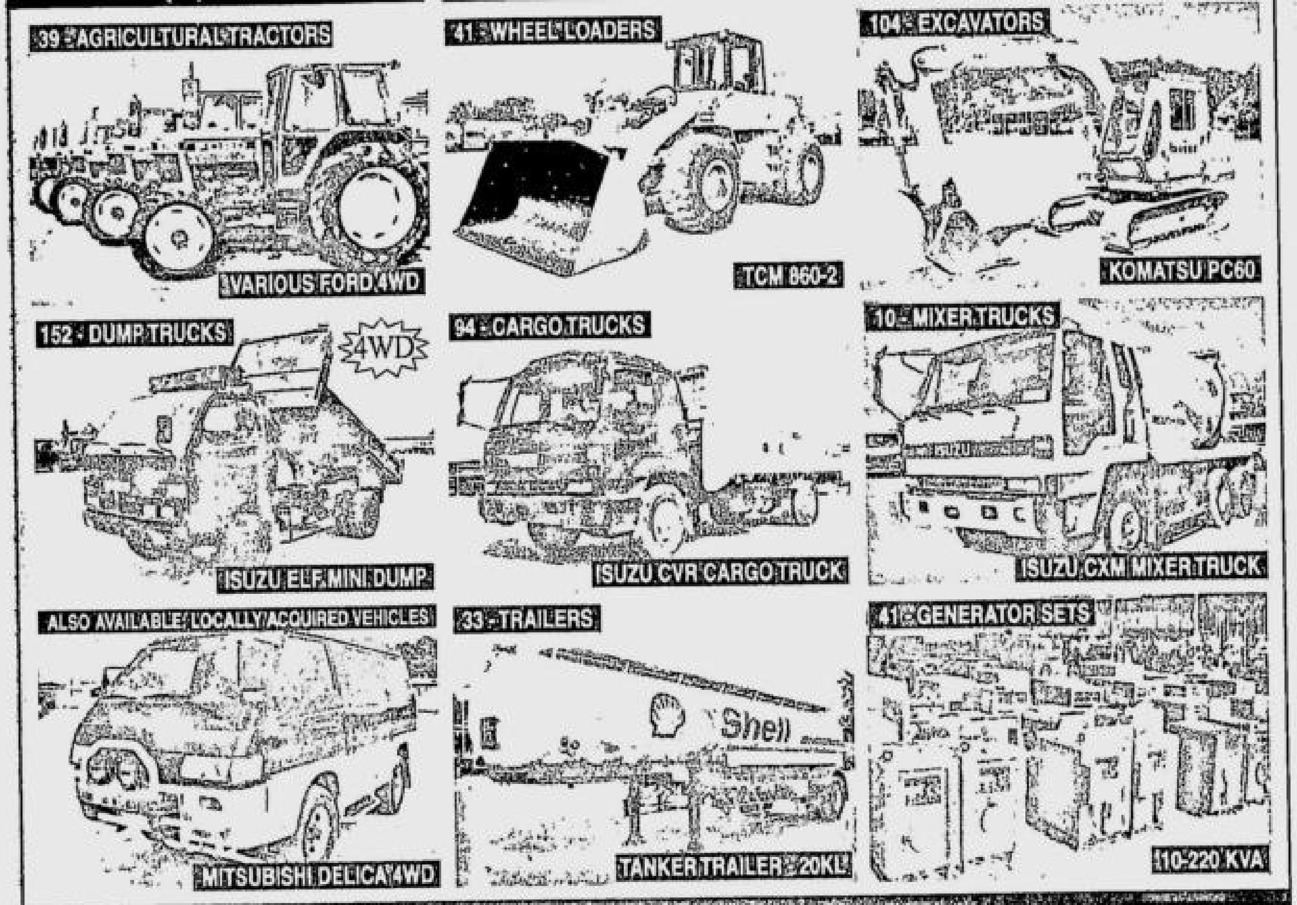

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Baseball, softball out

TURIN, ITALY—SYNCHRONIZED swimming, trampoline and rhythmic gymnastics are safe. But baseball and softball are out for the 2012 Olympics.

Dropped from the London Games seven months ago, women's softball and baseball got a second chance Thursday to make a case for reinstatement. The result, though, was the same: The European-dominated International Olympic Committee rejected pleas from two very traditional American sports.

The result was a victory for IOC president Jacques Rogge, who felt that overturning a vote taken just seven months ago would damage the committee's credibility and set a bad precedent.

The two sports remain on the program for the 2008 Beijing Games, and can apply for reinstatement in 2009 for the 2016 Olympics. *AP*

RP riders upstage Indons

KOTA TINGGI, MALAYSIA—PAGCOR-Casino Filipino's Albert Primero dished out a superb performance in the rain by finishing eighth in Stage 7, just seven seconds off lap winner Elio Aggiano of LPR, in the TM Le Tour de Langkawi Thursday here.

Primero negotiated the tour's longest lap of 188 km in four hours, 21 minutes and 43 seconds as he moved two places up to 23rd in the overall Asian classification with a time of 25:48.10, 44 minutes behind leader Hossein Askari of Taiwan's Giant Asia team.

Victor Espiritu and Bernard Luzon arrived 16 seconds later. Espiritu remained the best RP performer at No. 12, 21 minutes off Askari.

The combined times of the three proved enough for the Filipinos, whose stint here is sponsored by Philpost, Air21, Unilab, UCPB Gen., Vellum Cycles and the PSC, to beat the Tonton Susanto-powered Wismilak of Indonesia.

SPEED DEVIL: JP Cariño negotiates a long straight in his Honda Civic en route to posting the fastest lap of 2:00.522 minutes in the seventh round of the PNTC saloon car championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently. The 2003 Formula Toyota champ, lead driver of the Bosch team and backed by Castrol, Intelco, Minerva Tire Gallery, Minerva Sales Corp., Rota, Visual Speed Autosign, PR Autosport, Accel, Yokohama, Matonetics, Arrow Karts, South Side Custom and Honda Club of the Philippines, eventually finished second to series leader Renan Morales in the Class Group B standings.

Makabenta gains Poker Tour Million-Peso Hold 'em finals

FEDERICO MAKABENTA TOPPED THE CASINO Filipino Hold 'em tournament recently to barge into the main event of the Philippine Poker Tour Million-Peso Hold 'em Philippine Championship.

A total of 18 players have so far advanced into the finals slated April 8-9 at Casino Filipino-Parañaque.

The main event offers P1 million, out of the P1.6 million cash pot at stake, and a gold bracelet to the first national poker champion of the non-wager competition series.

"To be the first Philippine poker champion is a dream of many tournament poker players," said Rey Gamboa, chair of the PPT organizing committee.

Players can also join the finals without playing in satellite tournaments by paying a registration fee of P21,000 on or before April 5.

Among the venues of the qualifying tourneys are Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig, San Mig Alabang Town Center in Alabang, Pioneer Highlands in Mandaluyong City, Milky Way at Las Piñas and Casino Filipino Angeles in Angeles City.

For inquiries, call the secretariat at 817-9092 or 812-0153 or visit the official website www.PhilippinePokerTour.com.

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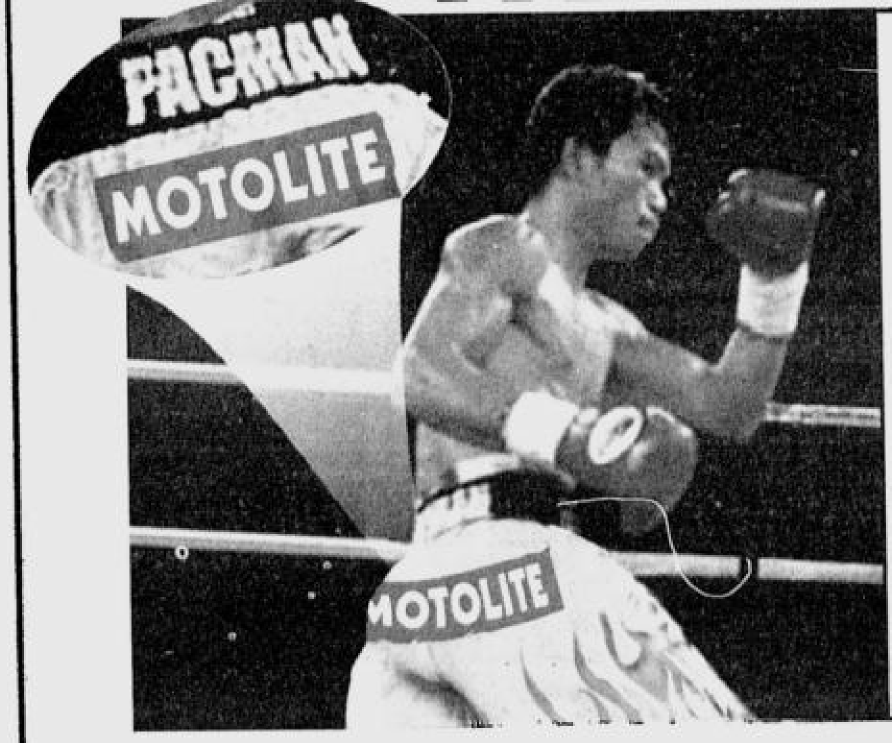

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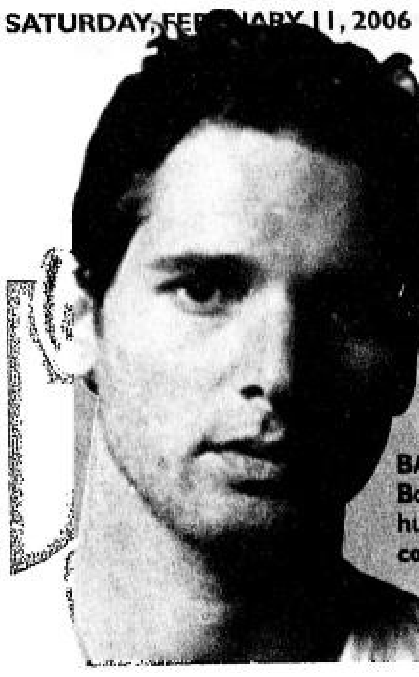


BANA. Bounty hunter with a conscience.

NOW SHOWING

Spielberg shares stirring reflections on war and vengeance

By Rito P. Asilo

"Munich"

D: Steven Spielberg
S: Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Geoffrey Rush

IN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO STEVEN Spielberg, there are no good and bad guys—only people driven by an unstinting motivation to survive. In his piercing masterpiece, Spielberg unsparingly tackles the aftermath of the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes during the 1972 Munich Olympics in Germany at the hands of the Palestinian terrorist group, Black September.

To retaliate, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Lynn Cohen) deploys the Mossad's bounty hunters—led by Avner (Eric Bana) and Steve (Daniel Craig)—to hunt down the men behind the heinous act.

Aided by pricey, "ideologically promiscuous" informers, Avner and his team operate the secret undertaking that takes them to Europe and Lebanon to seek vengeance and retribution through murder.

In one particularly chilling scene, Meir offers a blunt justification for the act: "Forget peace for now! Every civilization finds it necessary to negotiate compromises with its own values."

But, the moral values that bind human laws don't end when a nation's thirst for vengeance overwhelms diplomacy and reason. And Spielberg knows only too well not to proselytize or demonize the perceived antagonists in Israel and Palestine's unceasing 100-year-old racial war. (Shades of our country's centuries-old Christian-Muslim strife in the south, right?)

"Munich," as scathing and uncompromising as any of Malick's or Kubrick's productions, is Spielberg's "prayer for peace"—without the fancy romanticizing that is apparent even among the director's "serious" and most accomplished oeuvre. And Eric Bana ("Chopper")—alternately intense and touching—tackles a role that deserves his formidable thespic gifts.

The film doesn't just mirror a harsh reflection of society's moral bearings, it likewise stands as a timely reminder of the cycle of violence that man exacerbates. The historical parallelisms don't end there. Weren't Black September's ideological ramblings intended to alleviate the sufferings of its people? How different is it from the tragedy of 9-11 in 2001? Or, the "terrorists" behind the dark days of September 1971 in our country? Indeed, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

"I Will Always Love You"

D: Mac Alejandre
S: Richard Gutierrez, Angel Locsin

Rich but irresponsible Justin Ledesma (Richard Gutierrez) sets out to win the affections of intelligent but poor Cecille Guevarra (Angel Locsin). But, the poor-little-rich-boy's overbearing mom (Jean Garcia) doesn't approve. What to do?

When the domineering mother sends her *unico hijo* to the States to protect him from the clutches of the gold-digging *probinsyana*. Justin acquiesces—*but*, with Cecille in tow!

As eventful tearjerkers go, the duo's secret is soon revealed and, in no time, the couple's relationship is in shambles. But, will they live up to their fans' expectations—*and*, to the film's title? Natch.

On the surface, Mac Alejandre's latest film has all the elements of a winning romantic drama: A box office-friendly story, a charismatic leading lady (with talent and screen presence to boot) with her dashing consort by her side, a radio-savvy soundtrack, Lee Meily's audacious scenographic eye for swoon-worthy, romance-inducing vistas, and a worthy *contravida* (Jean Garcia, who acts more like a jealous fiancée than a well-meaning mom)—with fangs and claws to spare!

Unfortunately, the film's script is another story. The movie is bogged down by awkwardly staged scenes, archaic lines (Do people—particularly twentysomething Gen X'ers—still say "*Malayo pa ang lalakbayin ko*" in this day and age?), and mind-boggling implausibilities: Cecille accepts a cell phone from Justin even before they're officially an item. Then, she readily welcomes the generous scholarship grant from her boyfriend's family, etc.

It's no wonder why her future in-laws think she's just after their son's fortune!

Fantasy films, pro and con

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST DECEMBER, THE METRO MANILA Film Festival was dominated by fantasy movies, with the three topgrossers. ("Enteng Kabisote," "Exodus," "Mulawin") going in heavily for fantasticating stories and wondrous (and expensive) special effects.

Since the 2005 festival made a lot of money, its choice of predominant film format may be seen to have been welcomed by Filipino filmgoers.

Logic

The logic here is that the Yuletide festival should come up with movies that appeal to child and family audiences, and young viewers just love fantasy movies.

We're glad that the festivals made money, especially during this lean and hungry decade for Filipino film people. So, we acknowledge the "wisdom" that prompted the filmfest to prefer spectacular productions.

On the *other* hand, the festival was created, not to delight children, but to showcase the best movies that our film people can come up with. The 2005 festival's official entries weren't all that great on point of artistic excellence, so its official reason for being wasn't fulfilled.

There's also something disturbing about a festival whose entires encourage viewers to escape from reality, rather than confront it. Yes, some pertinent lessons can be learned from stories about knights, fairies and monsters, but what Filipinos need to do at this critical time is to face reality, rather than run away from it.

In dire straits

In fact, it can be argued that one reason why not just the film industry but the entire country itself is in dire straits is this facile penchant for not confronting and solving problems. Fantasy films only exacerbate the situation, so they have a serious down side to their epic wonders.

In addition, they're so expensive to produce that only the major studios can significantly compete in the filmfest, thus further curtailing the democratic producing and viewing options on the local movie scene.

This is an ironic development, in the light of the rise of inexpensive digital filmmaking in our midst, a trend that has been described by some as the last, saving hope of the Filipino film industry.

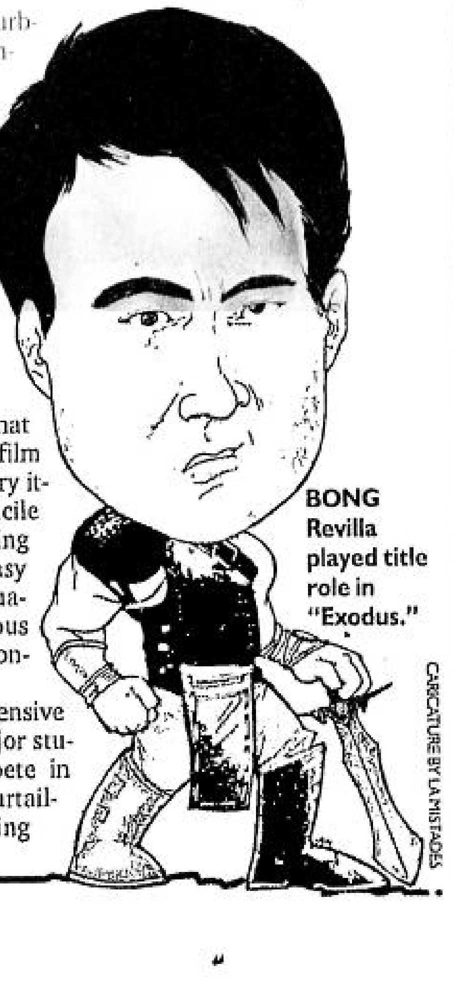
If digital features don't have the ghost of a chance to compete with the fantasy blockbusters in the filmfest, what hope for the industry are we talking about?

Kiss of death

We can't have a movie industry that activates itself only for the year-end festival, can we? That would really be the kiss of death for us all.

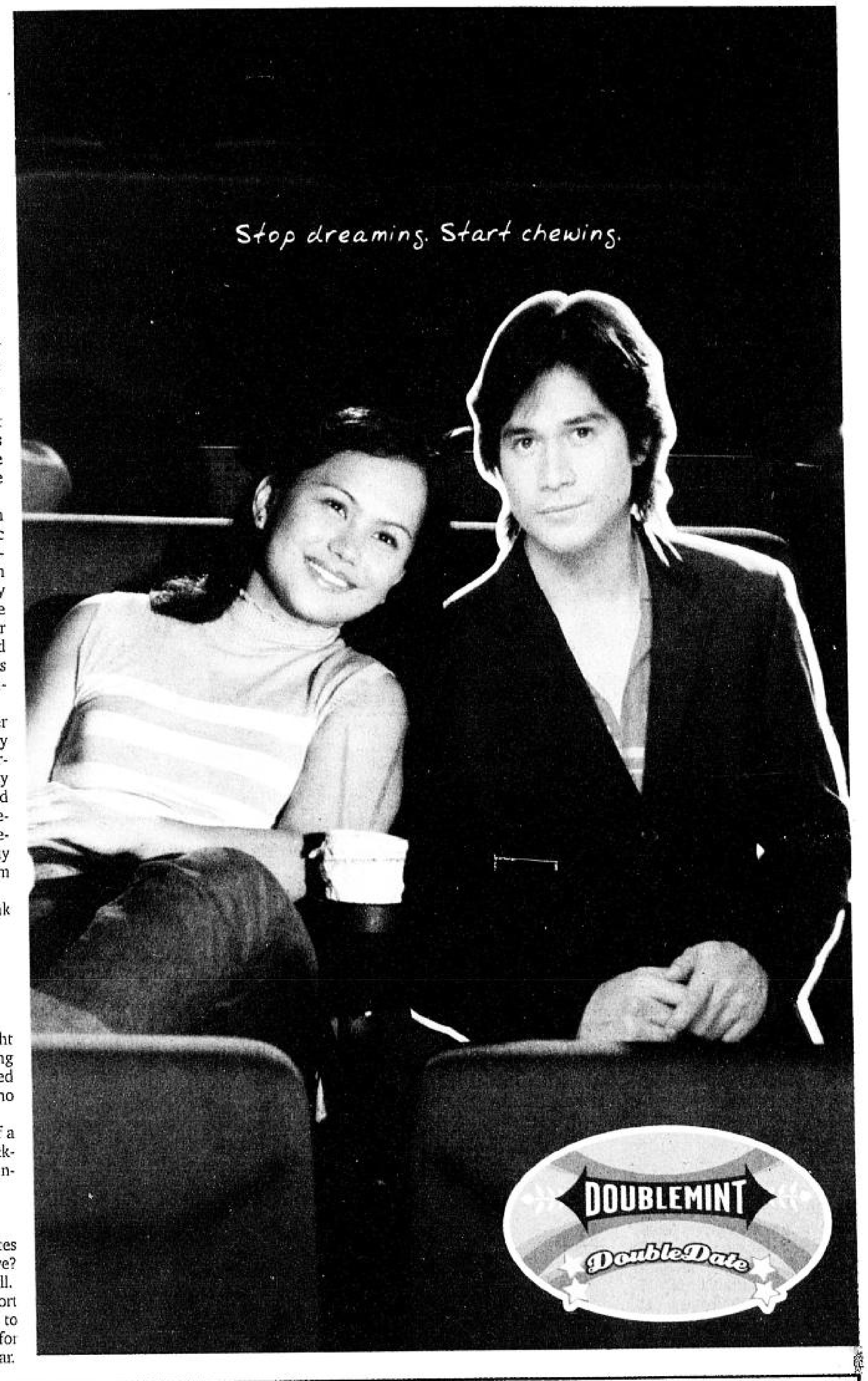
So, while we acknowledge audience support for fantasy films, we urge our producers to bankroll more realistic productions, not just for the December festival, but throughout the year.

And, don't nip the promising digital film wave in the bud in favor of huge profits from a few huge fantasy productions that could lead Filipino filmmakers and their audience into a dead-end street—from which there is no escape.



BONG Revilla played title role in "Exodus."

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

EVERYTHING HE LOVES IS ABOUT TO BE USED AGAINST HIM.
HARRISON FORD
PAUL BETTANY
FIREWALL
THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE.
NOW SHOWING

'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' soundtrack is set for release

By Nestor U. Torre

SEN. NENE PIMENTEL AND HIS wife, Bing, are so happy with the recent Meralco Theater run of their accalimed Martial Law musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," that they're bent on taking it on tour around the country, so more young people can learn about the sacrifices and heroism of their parents.

Senator Pimentel marveled at how the musical managed to distill the essence of his 600-page narrative, "Martial Law in the Philippines: My Story," in only two hours. (The book will be launched later this month.)

THE PIMENTELS with former President Corazon Aquino before the musical's gala performance at Meralco Theater.

Elation

He expressed elation at the musical's breezy delivery-room scene, and shared that he had wept during the show's more dramatic scenes, particularly the sequences that showed his character in detention.

He said that, in real life, he had managed to hold his emotions in check, but the musical's intense compression of events had caused them to build up and thus impinge strongly on his recollections.

For her part, Bing said she was happy that the songs she wrote for the musical had made a unique impact on the Meralco Theater audience.

Members of the press reacted very positively to her compositons, and some of them even described her as a major find in the field of composing.

Bing humbly revealed that she didn't even know how to read and write notes, so she attributed her musical gift to God, and thanked Him for this special blessing, which enabled her to share her feelings and insights with many people.

This early, two of Bing's songs have elicited special interest, and are well on their way to become popular anthems that could be played and sung over and over again in the years to come.

Wedding song

The first, the wedding song, **"Sa Harap ng Diyos,"** could well become a new favorite of affianced couples. Its beautiful lyrics show why:

Kay tagal kong hinintay ang araw na ito
Ibig kong mangako sa harap ng Diyos
Ikaw at ikaw lamang ang mamahalin
Ikaw at ikaw lamang ang iibigin
Sa harap ng Diyos, nangangako ako
Sa hirap at ginhawa tayo'y magkaisa

Tanggapin mo ang puso ko, pati na ang buhay ko
Kahit ano'ng mangyari, ikaw and mahal ko
Kay tagal kong hinintay ang araw na ito
Mahal kita, dapat alam mo
Ang buhay ko'y iyong-iyo, tanggapin mo
Sa harap ng Diyos nangangako ako
Ikaw at ikaw lamang ang mamahalin

Eto ang pag-ibig ko, ikaw ang buhay ko
Nangangako ako, uulitin ko
Mahal kita, asahan mo
Magsasama habang buhay
Mahal ko!

Heroes

Bing's patriotic anthem, **"Pag-ibig sa Bayan,"** is similarly memorable because it expresses the deep love of country that motivates heroes to give up even their lives to regain freedom for their countrymen:

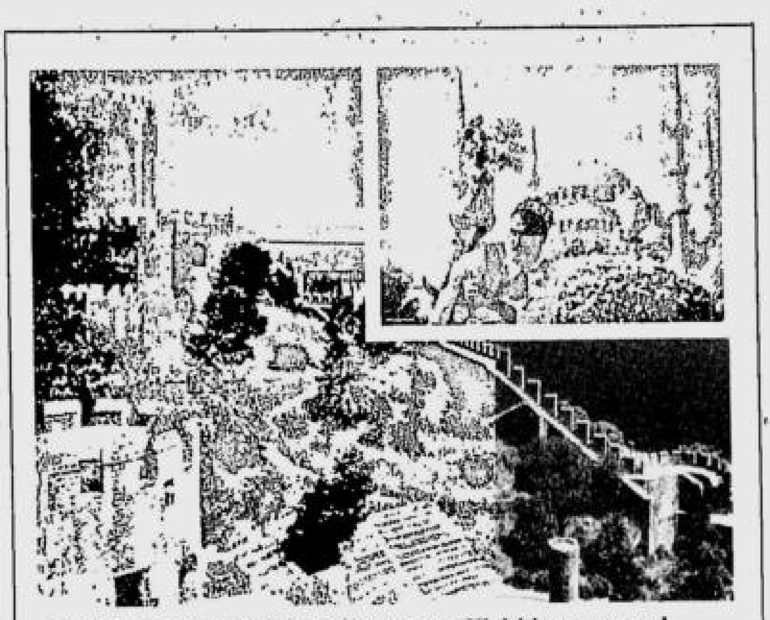
Bakit ba ang pag-ibig sa bayan
Ay tibok na di matanggihan
Tulad ng anak sa magulang
Di kayang itakwil at iwan

Bayan ko, ang tibok mo'y gayuma
Sa utos mo, ako ay tatalima
Buhay ay handa sa iyo ialay
Makitang malaya kang tunay

Tayong nagtitiis sa kulungan
Laya ay nilalapastangan
Tulad ng bayang nasa karimlan
Kailan kaya ang bukang-liwayway?

Bayan ko, ang tibok mo'y gayuma
Sa utos mo ako ay tatalima
Buhay ay handa sa iyo ialay
Makitang malaya kang tunay!

Bing Pimentel is coming out with an album of her songs for "Pag-ibig sa Byan" next month. The songs will be sung by the musical's lead players, **Marco Sison, Jane Diaz, Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Katherine Estabillo, Russel Magno** and **Albert Jimenez.**


AMONG scenic highlights of Journeys of Faith's new travel itinerary.

Turkish, biblical delights in unique pilgrimage

STARTING FEB. 28, JOURNEYS of Faith will take devotees and tourists on a memorable trip to Jordan, Israel, Turkey and Greece. Billed as "Following the Gospel Trail," the tour traces actual locations mentioned in the New Testament, and chronicles the life of Jesus Christ and his disciples.

Pilgrims can opt for the entire trip, or sign up for parts of it, like Jordan and the Holy Land (Feb. 28 to March 10), Turkey (March 7 to 17), or Turkey and Greece (March 7 to 20).

Eager

Tour organizer Arlina T. Onglao is particularly eager to introduce travelers to Turkey, which, in recent years, has been rediscovered by tourists and pilgrims from all over the world.

The Turkey leg of the tour starts in Istanbul, with visits to the famous Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, Adana and Antioch, where Paul and Barnabas set out on their first missionary journey.

Pilgrims will then go to Tarsus, where Paul was born, to Cappadocia, enroute to visit the Eski Gumus Monastery and Kaymakli, an underground city carved from soft volcanic rock by early Christians.

Other memorable sights: the ancient Hierapolis, and the famous Cotton Castles of Pamukkale.

In Ephesus, historical and biblical sites beckon, especially the Virgin Mary's house in Meryem Ana, and the Basilica of St. John. The Turkey-Greece trip will also take the group to Athens, Kalambaka and Meteora.

Highlights

Some of the voyage's highlights: Ephesus is one of the best-preserved cities in the Mediterranean, and is Turkey's showpiece of Aegean archeology.

In Istanbul, rugs can be had at the Kapali Carsi (covered bazaar), a mini-city that includes some 4,500 shops, cafes and restaurants.

A beautiful freak of nature and a geological fairyland, Pamukkale (Cotton Castle) resembles a series of bleached rice terraces, the result of mineral hot springs, whose calcium-rich deposits have been accumulating for millennia.

Finally, Cappadocia boasts of a surreal landscape sculpted from volcanic terrain: minarets, coves and spires soaring as high as five-storey buildings.

Call Journeys of Faith at 0917 814-8127, (02) 929-0144, fax (02) 426-7295, or email joinjourneys @gmail.com.

ONGLAO. Journeys of Faith's tour organizer.

Old yarn, updated version

By Noelani Torre

IN "FIREWALL," HARRISON Ford shows us that being sixtysomething doesn't prevent one from kicking ass. Then again, kicking ass is something that Ford has been doing throughout his movie career.

He assumes that role once again in Richard Loncraine's thriller, where Ford plays Jack Stanfield, a bank security executive who specializes in designing and maintaining impregnable computer systems.

Weak link

The weak link in this seemingly invincible set-up, however, is the designer himself, and he discovers this the hard way when his home is invaded, and his family held hostage by a gang of bank robbers.

It's a story you've no doubt heard before, but it does get updated. This time there are no safes that need cracking, and no bags of money or gold bars to lug around. Bank robbery in the new millennium occurs in cyberspace, and Ford's character is the cyber watchdog.

For those not well-versed in tech-speak, a "firewall" is software that prevents unauthorized access to private data by outside computer users.

The bad guys in the film are headed by the charming, tea-drinking Bill Cox (Paul Bettany), and it turns out that they've been watching Jack and his family for a long time—long enough to know their medical records, and where Jack hides his gun. And long enough, in fact, to have known what they surprisingly did not know in one of the movie's revelatory scenes.

FORD. Plays bank security executive in "Firewall."

The movie begins interestingly enough. Invasion of home and privacy is always worth a few thrills. But, despite all the technological upgrading, it's the same old plot.

Action

The techno stuff also doesn't help the action. You have to admit, a guy blowing up a safe is certainly more exciting to watch than a guy typing on a keyboard.

They try to liven things up with a tense, thriller-ish score, but all that does is emphasize the fact that you're watching a movie that has been made—and made better—a dozen times before.

Paradizoo

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

THE 10-HECTARE PARADIZOO farm, which was shown to us last weekend by Tagaytay Residence Inn's Robert Yupangco, envisions a farm that can sustain itself.

It is being developed as a petting zoo with animals that include goats, wild boars, pigs, rabbits, ostriches and horses.

The farm also boasts of flowering shrubs and fruit trees like bananas, mangoes, coconuts, jackfruit.

Tong Payumo, former chairman of SBMA, brought home an imported stag to breed with the goats in his Bataan farm.

At the rest house, a bundle of flowers called the Paradizoo Giant Blooms took our breath away. These are impressively gigantic blooms that come in a rainbow of colors. They will soon be available to local flower lovers!

Call 899-9824, or text 0917 835-1111.

* * *

Register now for the Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop from April 8 to May 27, or check out the MN Batanes Photo Safari from April 12 to 15.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

Lessons from 'Wowowee' tragedy

From page A2-7

some perceived efforts to condition the viewing public's reactions to the tragic event.

Defense

This may be seen in the statements of some of ABS-CBN's program hosts and stars, who have rallied to the network's defense.

Repeatedly, they intone: Nobody wanted this to happen. All the show wanted was to make people happy and to alleviate their poverty through the prizes they won. The people need a program like this. The show should continue, because it is performing an important function.

Let's stop blaming people, let's unite. Willie is not at fault, so don't blame him. The real culprits are the unruly members of the mob that stormed the gate. Tragedies like this are beyond control. It's God's will. It could even result in something positive if we learn lessons from it, and use it as an opportunity to help the victims and their relatives.

The show is important even to Filipinos living abroad because it provides a rallying point for their love for and generosity toward their impoverished countrymen here. It gives hope. Let's move on.

Some of those individual points are acceptable, but for viewers to be subjected to a series of them is disquieting. It's true, there's no whitewash in ABS-CBN's news coverage of the event, but in its other shows, there appears to be some spin. We trust that viewers can sense when this is happening, and maintain *their* objectivity.

Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner as lovers

By Behn Cervantes

AVA GARDNER, ONCE DUBBED "the most beautiful animal in the world," had a unique beauty and appeal that made her a standout in her stunning debut, "The Killers."

In the '50s, a pool of tinseltown's most prestigious cinematographers and photographers voted Gardner "the most beautiful actress in Hollywood." Her runners-up were Ann Blyth and Elizabeth Taylor.

Stardom

The Texas native lived and loved as she pleased—she did not allow stardom to dictate her private life!

Ava was Frank Sinatra's "greatest and most passionate love." It is said that the legendary singer carried a torch for her long after they divorced.

Their love affair was scandalous—it started when Frank was still married to Nancy, whom he eventually abandoned to live with Ava.

SINATRA AND GARDNER. Passionate on and off-screen.

During their union, Ava helped boost Frank's flagging career by agreeing to appear in films she didn't like, just to clinch for Sinatra his award-winning role in "From Here to Eternity."

The two stars were as passionate on screen as they were off, but they soon went their separate ways. Frank went back to recording while Ava migrated to Spain.

Sinatra later married Mia Farrow, but he continued to dedicate his love songs to Ava!

The Sinatra-Gardner love affair is ranked among Hollywood's greatest and most controversial liaisons, along with those of Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, and Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

Trouble in paradise

Unfortunately, as Gardner claimed after their wedding, there was "trouble in paradise" soon after their honeymoon, because their personalities were "too independent to live happily ever after!"

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
JET LI is
FEARLESS
霍元甲
A RONNY YU FILM
Sneak Previews on FEB. 13 & 14
FATE MADE HIM A WARRIOR, COURAGE MADE HIM A HERO
OPENS MARCH 1
MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult | Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Travel Tour Expo ongoing at Megatrade Hall

THE 13TH TRAVEL TOUR EXPO, THE largest trade and consumer event of the travel industry, is being held at the Megatrade Hall, Megamall, until tomorrow.

MONTAGE

Organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association, in cooperation with the Dept. of Tourism and Philippine Airlines, and sponsored by Air Philippines and Galileo International, TTE '06 brings together local and international travel agencies, tour operators, airlines and cruise liners, hotels, resorts, theme parks, travel product suppliers, and tourism promotion organizations in the ultimate one-stop show for travelers.

'Family Plan'

At 9 p.m. on Feb. 14, the Hallmark Channel screens "Family Plan," a romantic comedy starring Tori Spelling as a career woman who pretends to be married to get on the good side of her new boss (Greg Germann). When she needs to produce a husband, she hires an out-of-work actor (Jordan Bridges). But, just as she thinks her "clever" ruse has worked, it blows up in her face.

SPELLING AND BRIDGES. Topbill Hallmark's romantic comedy.

Jed Madela

World singing champion Jed Madela performs in his hometown, Iloilo City, today (at CPU's Rose Memorial Auditorium). On Feb. 13, he'll be at Sitcom Live! in Las Piñas, on Feb. 14 at The Library in Malate, on Feb. 25 at SM Pampanga, and on Feb. 27 at Zirkoh. Call 873-8913.

'Equator'

Animal Planet's six-part series, "Equator," is telecast every Saturday this month, at 9 p.m. Tonight's episode, "Battles for the Light," is set in the rainforests of Southeast Asia.

'Madonnathon'

For one whole day today, Madonna is holding court over the MYX channel. The "Madonnathon" includes cuts from her latest hit album, "Confessions on the Dancefloor," which has already sold 6.5 million copies.

'Forever After'

Progress Gold presents "Forever After," a one-of-a-kind musical comedy concert, tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. The unique show stars Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Ai-Ai delas Alas and Rico J. Puno.

Vina, Rachel and Geneva

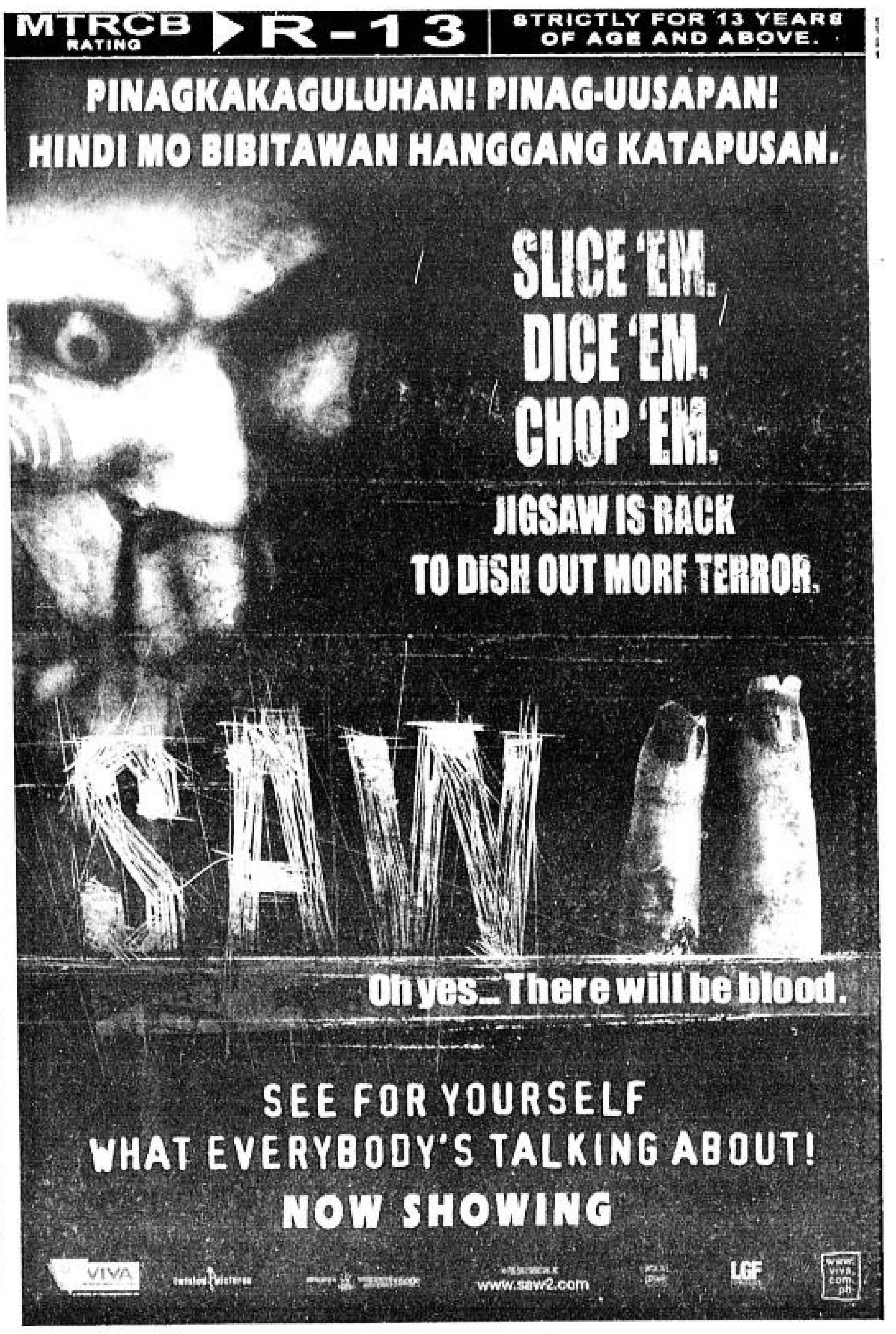
Catch "How to Get the Guy," Vina Morales, Rachel Alejandro and Geneva Cruz's Valentine show at the Music Museum tonight and on Feb. 13.

'Comfort Woman'

Tanghalang Ateneo presents "Comfort Woman," starring Gileth Sandico starting today at the Fine Arts Theater, Gonzaga building, Ateneo de Manila University from Friday to Sunday at 7 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinee performances at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Missy Maramara directs. Call 0922 691-2837.

Bimbo Cerrudo

Bimbo Cerrudo kicks off the busy Valentine month with "Amore Classico" today at the Conservatory of the Peninsula Manila. Then, he will perform in Iloilo (Sarabia Manor Hotel) and Bacolod (Sugarland Hotel) on Feb. 13 and 14, respectively, for the special benefit show, "Heart and Soul." Call 725-8821 or 0917 538-5179.


MTRCB RATING
R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.
PINAGKAKAGULUHAN! PINAG-UUSAPAN!
HINDI MO BIBITAWAN HANGGANG KATAPUSAN.
SLICE 'EM.
DICE 'EM.
CHOP 'EM.
JIGSAW IS BACK
TO DISH OUT MORE TERROR.
SAW II
Oh yes... There will be blood.
SEE FOR YOURSELF
WHAT EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT!
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SNEAK PREVIEWS
Robinsons Movieworld
galleria, ermita, imus
metro east, novaliches
February 13 and 14
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
REGULAR Showing: MARCH
FEARLESS

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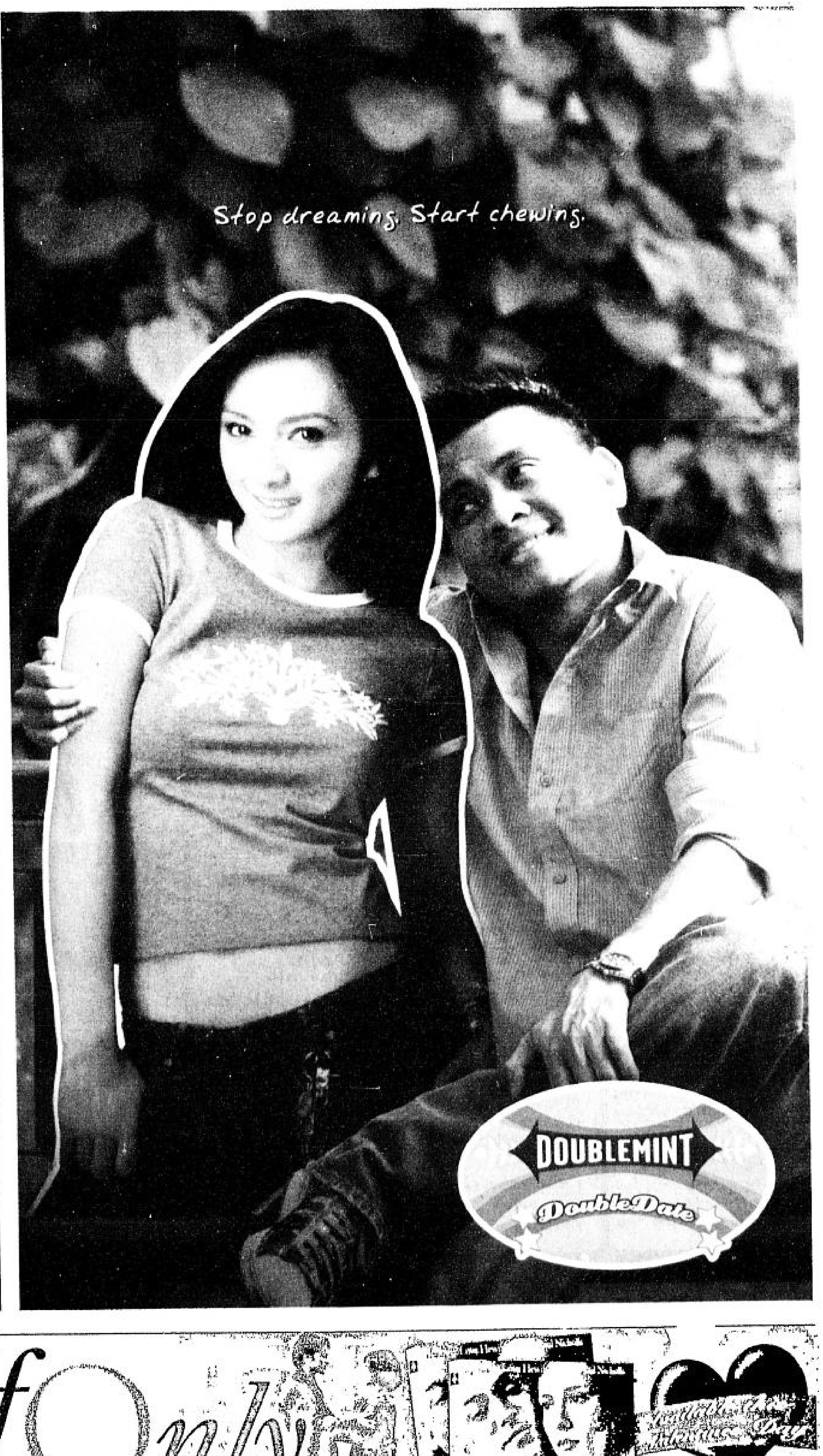
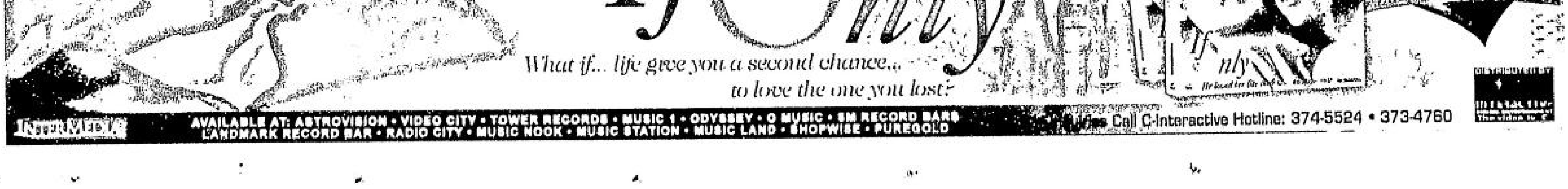
THE FUTURE IS FLUX
PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT
A VALHALLA MOTION PICTURES AND MTV FILMS PRODUCTION CHARLIZE THERON "AEON FLUX" MARTON CSOKAS JONNY LEE MILLER
SOPHIE OKONEDO PETE POSTLETHWAITE AND FRANCES McDORMAND
Solar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS FEB. 15


Stop dreaming. Start chewing.
DOUBLEMINT
DoubleDate


Jennifer Love Hewitt
Paul Nicholls
If Only
What if... life give you a second chance...
to love the one you lost?
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The Comedy of REX NAVARRETE
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Southmall • February 18 Baguio • February 25
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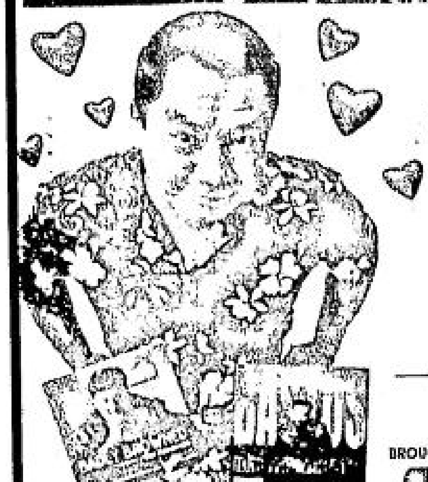

WE CHEERED FOR PACQUIAO, NOW LET US CHEER FOR VILORIA!
BIG SCREEN! NO COMMERCIALS!
BRIAN VILORIA "THE HAWAIIAN PUNCH" WBC LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION VS JOSE AGUIRRE "EL JAGUAR"
February 19, Sunday
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Las Vegas USA
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FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11:45 FS / 12:15 MF / 02:25 / 04:35 / 06:45
08:20 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:35 END
FIREWALL
11:30FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10 / 04:25 / 06:40
08:25 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:45 END
MEGAMALL
FIREWALL
10:15 FS / 10:45 MF / 01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30
07:45 / 09:30 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:45 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 12:45 / 02:30 / 04:15 / 06:00
07:45 / 09:20 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
FIREWALL
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:05 / 03:12 / 05:18 / 07:24
09:19 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:25 END
SAW 2
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 12:45 / 02:30 / 04:15 / 06:00
07:45 / 09:15 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:00 END
MANILA
BLOODRAYNE
10:30 FS / 12:20 MF / 02:10 / 04:00 / 05:50 / 07:40
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
moviectime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 FIREWALL
2 DERAILED
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
7 SAW 2
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 NEW WORLD
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12 MUNICH

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FIREWALL
2 MUNICH
3 NEW WORLD
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 ZATHURA
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 NEW WORLD

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MUNICH
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 SAW 2
4 FIREWALL
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
7 NEW WORLD
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
9 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 ZATHURA
12 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
2 NEW WORLD
3 FIREWALL
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 MUNICH
6 SAW 2
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 NEW WORLD
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MUNICH
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 SAW 2
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 FIREWALL
8 NEW WORLD

SM CITY MANILA
1 FIREWALL
2 NEW WORLD
3 SAW 2
4 ZATHURA
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
8 MUNICH
9 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11 UNDERWORLD 2
12 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 FIREWALL
2 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 NEW WORLD
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FIREWALL
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 SAW 2
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 NEW WORLD
3 RESERVED
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 RESERVED
7 FIREWALL
8 FEBRUARY LOVEFEST 2006

SM CITY MARILAO
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY LUCENA
1 ZATHURA
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 RUMOR HAS IT
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 FIREWALL
3 SAW 2
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LITTLE MANHATTAN
2 RESERVED
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 ZATHURA
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 RESERVED
8 THE MAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 ZATHURA
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 DERAILED
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID

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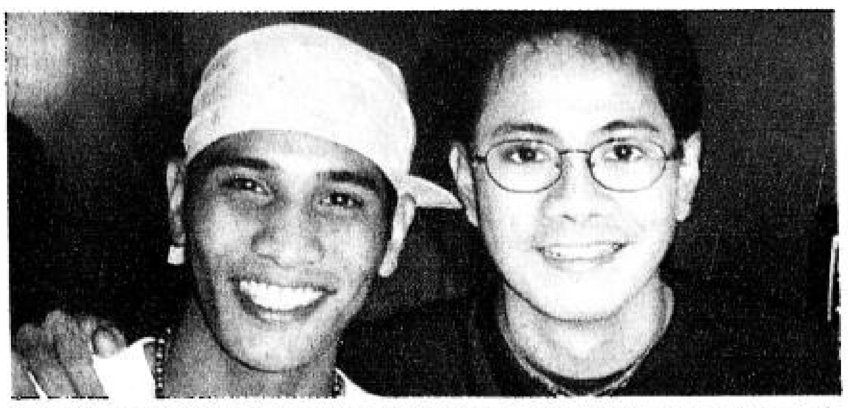
Tales from Big Brother's house

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

WE HAD AN INTERESTING CHAT last week with "Pinoy Big Brother's" mild-mannered and articulate resident shrink, Dr. Randy Dellosa—about the show and, mostly, about its former inhabitants, who are now celebrities in their own right. (Ironically, they're more known by their first names.)



DELLOSA (WITH FRANZEN, LEFT). The "housemates'" dark side appealed to viewers.

Randy was understandably tight-lipped about sharing some details that, if revealed, would raise ethical questions about doctor-patient confidentiality.

Announcement

Moreover, he didn't want to preempt last Sunday's announcement of the 14 current "housemates," which include **Rustom Padilla, John Pratts, Gretchen Malalad, Bianca Gonzales, Keanna Reeves, Christian Vasquez, Zanjoe Marudo, Aleck Bovick, Mich Dulce, Errol "Budoy" Marabiles, Roxanne Barcelo, Rico Robles, Angela Calina** and **Rudy Fernandez.**

Dellosa walked and talked the fine line between what questions to answer and which topics remained off the record, but he knew where to draw it. (Also present during the interview was Seiko Films' top gun, **Robbie Tan**, who had interesting questions of his own.)

Here are excerpts from our Q and A:

How do you explain the show's popularity and the *Pinoy's* fascination with reality shows?

As human beings, we are innately voyeuristic. People don't want to feel isolated, they identify with—and get attracted to—flawed individuals. Watching the show is a guilty pleasure. When people of different idiosyncratic traits interact, you see chemistry at work.

The "Big Brother" franchise originated in the Netherlands, but its cult status is more pronounced here because *Pinoys* have a penchant for "participating" in other people's lives.

In other countries, there's a continuum that people respect. *Tayo*, we think in black and white. The current edition will have a bigger following because it "humanizes" celebrities and shows them at their most natural—and possibly, their ugliest!

Were you part of the selection process?

No. I only met the "housemates" when they were already inside, although the staff of "PBB" did consult me about two applicants for the celebrity edition, because the show was concerned about their "manageability." I'm given only 10 minutes a week per "housemate." I can't do therapy, because the purpose of therapy is to change personality.

Complaints

In this show, you have to preserve the participants' quirks, because these are what make them tick. But, I'm always on-call. When Bob fainted, he was keeping a lot of things inside, *ang dami niyang* complaints against the other "housemates."

Are people on their best behavior because they're aware of the cameras?

You *can't* "act" consistently for 100 days. On the other hand, the housemates did not necessarily put their best foot forward because they also knew that their dark side appealed to people and influenced text votes. Franzen was strategic, he made people wonder if he was crazy or not.

What did you think of the "housemates"?

Sam and Say know how to express themselves well. Uma is definitely a character—he's outspoken and uninhibited. He claims that other people's opinions don't bother him, but they do. Maybe he's not ready for the Filipino culture. Inside the house, people didn't have a problem with Uma, he was well-liked. But, viewers noticed his unusual behavior.

Respect

Inside, you don't see the big picture, although this is something that we have to respect: As much as people have the right to come out of the closet, they also have the right to stay in it—*because* it's their life!

Nene was consistent all throughout. It was she who enjoyed the whole experience the most. She was daring enough to climb trees or wear a tutu, and brave enough to speak up against Big Brother. Chx isn't as liberated as people think she is. She was just "projecting."

Some of them—like Franzen and Bob—tried to fish for their ratings. Jason has a knack for comedy, although he wasn't very expressive with me.

Personality

Say and Sam can sing. Cass is consistently inconsistent, but she looks good and has personality. She can answer one question for 30 minutes. But, they all need to prove that they're not just flashes in the pan.

Who had the most difficult time?

From day one, Sam Milby.

Among the original batch, who would you put inside the "PBB" house? Which celebrities would you like to see inside?

From the original batch, I'd pick Franzen. I'd like to see Rosanna Rocess, Lolit Solis, Cristy Fermin and Mahal inside. From politics, Mike Defensor. I wouldn't choose Miriam Defensor-Santiago—she's too powerful. She'll probably burn down the house! *(laughs)*

Symposium spotlights current film trends

By Rica Arevalo

WHEN THE CULtural Center of the Philippines sent me an invitation to meet film theorists, Dr. Paul Willemen of the University of Ulster in Ireland and Dr. Laleen Jayamanne of the University of Sydney, I grabbed the chance. Indian filmmaker, Kumar Shahani, was also present to screen his film, "The Bamboo Flute."

Willemen calls himself an "activist of independent cinema." He says his aim is to encourage his audience to make a position.

Provocative

He issued three provocative statements: If you want to be a filmmaker, get a job to survive; campaign for state funding, and encourage filmmakers to hook up with art galleries as venues to screen their films.

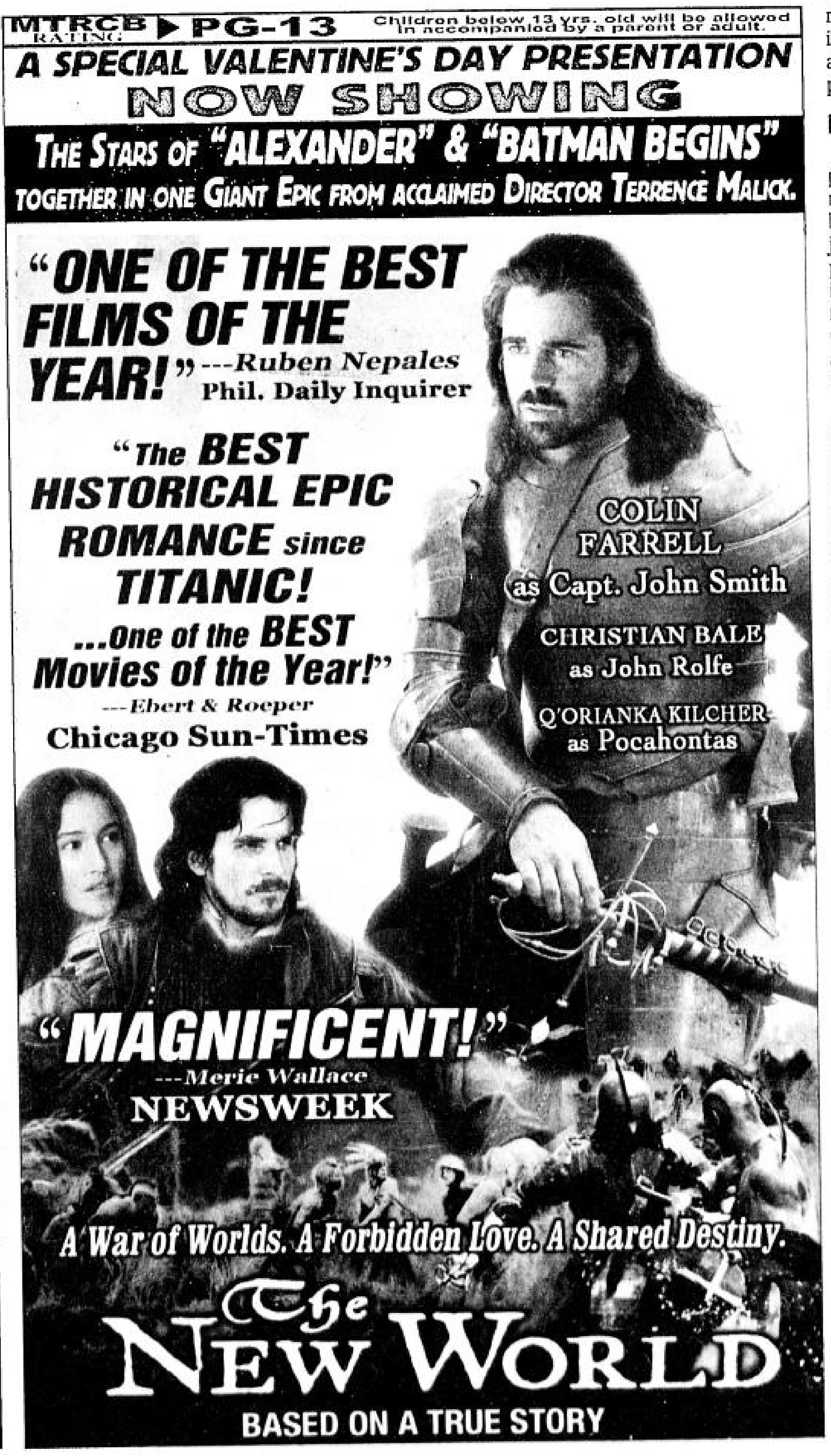
He reasons, "Independent cinema is at a crossroads. It is difficult to survive, so filmmakers have to look for new avenues to show their movies. They should also organize group screenings."

For his part, Jayamanne's background is in drama and theater. She shares, "I watch old Sri Lankan films. They're always about problems of the family, poverty, and the role of women. Cinema has a way of influencing judgment and behavior."

Experiment

On the other hand, Shahani's first feature film, "Maya Darpan," is considered India's first "formalist experiment." He studied under two modernist film masters, Ritik Ghatak and Robert Bresson.

Willemen, Jayamanne and Shahani were in town to participate in the symposium, "The Politics of Beauty," at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños.



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Lessons from 'Wowowee' tragedy

REVILLAME. Temporary leave of absence from hosting chores.

By Nestor U. Torre

THE STAMPEDE AT THE FORMER ULTRA performance venue that killed over 70 people desperate to win prizes in the "Wowowee" TV show's anniversary telecast is one of the worst disasters in the history of local show business.

Factors

Its combination of disturbing factors like grinding poverty and need, neglect, greed, death and lack of respect for life has turned the disaster into a morality tale that has caught the entire nation in its fierce grip, and provoked an intense reexamination of the country's culture of poverty and gambling, as well as its almost idolatrous fixation on "luck," media and entertainment.

It is hoped that this rigorous reevaluation will result in significant improvements that will raise the level of our national values.

As the potential villain in this tragedy, ABS-CBN, the producer of "Wowowee," has come up with a series of moves to handle the situation. On point of factual coverage, it has tried to establish its news department's objectivity in keeping the viewing public informed about continuing rescue efforts and the 72-hour investigation that followed.

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4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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4 SAW-2

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4 (DTS) RESERVED

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starmall EDSA SHAW
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5 FUN W/ DICK & JANE

metropolis star cinema
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(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994
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2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
4 BLOODRAYNE

THEATRES
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3 RUMOR HAS IT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
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2 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
3 RESERVED
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2 TUKSO
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3 THE MAID
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2nd Draw	Mar. 25, 2006	Mar. 19, 2006	Four (4) Winners Two (2) Males, Two (2) Females
3rd Draw	April 17, 2006	Apr. 10, 2006	Two (2) Winners One (1) Male, One (1) Female

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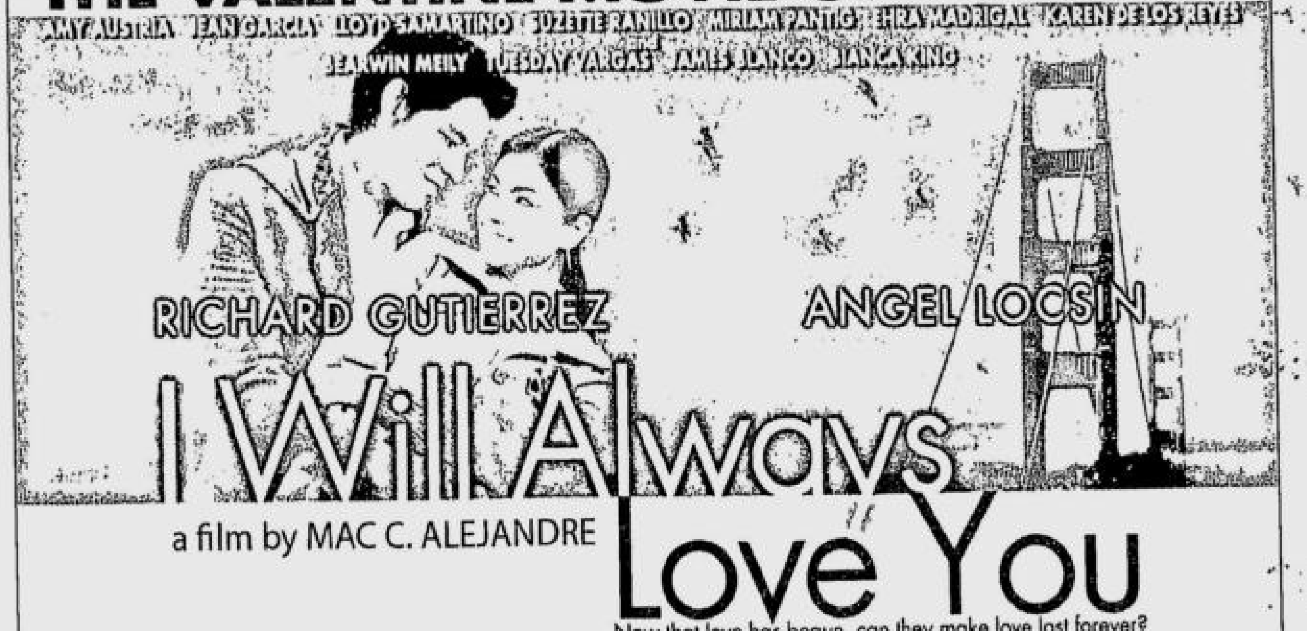
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1 MUNICH • THX
12:45 3:50 6:55 10:00

2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 NEW WORLD
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 BLOODRAYNE
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

5 FUN with DICK and JANE
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 FIREWALL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 DERAILED
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 UNDERWORLD 2
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 SAW 2
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

10 WALK THE LINE
1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 FIREWALL 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

2 SAW 2
12:00 1:40 3:20 5:00 6:40 8:20 10:00

3 BLOODRAYNE 12:20 2:30 4:40
UNDERWORLD 2 7:00 9:30

4 NEW WORLD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 FUN with DICK and JANE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 MUNICH
12:30 3:35 6:40 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 FUN with DICK and JANE
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 FIREWALL
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

4 NEW WORLD
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 UNDERWORLD 2
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

6 MUNICH
11:10 2:30 5:50 9:10

7 SAW 2
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 WALK THE LINE
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 SAW 2
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FIREWALL
5 WALK THE LINE
6 FUN with DICK and JANE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FIREWALL
3 RESERVE
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1 NEW WORLD
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE

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3 HALF LIGHT
4 THE MAID
5 FUN with DICK and JANE

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2 HALF LIGHT
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FUN with DICK and JANE

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1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 SAW 2
4 FUN with DICK and JANE

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1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 SAW 2
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 FIREWALL
5 FUN with DICK and JANE

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2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN with DICK and JANE
4 FIREWALL
5 SAW 2
6 UNDERWORLD 2

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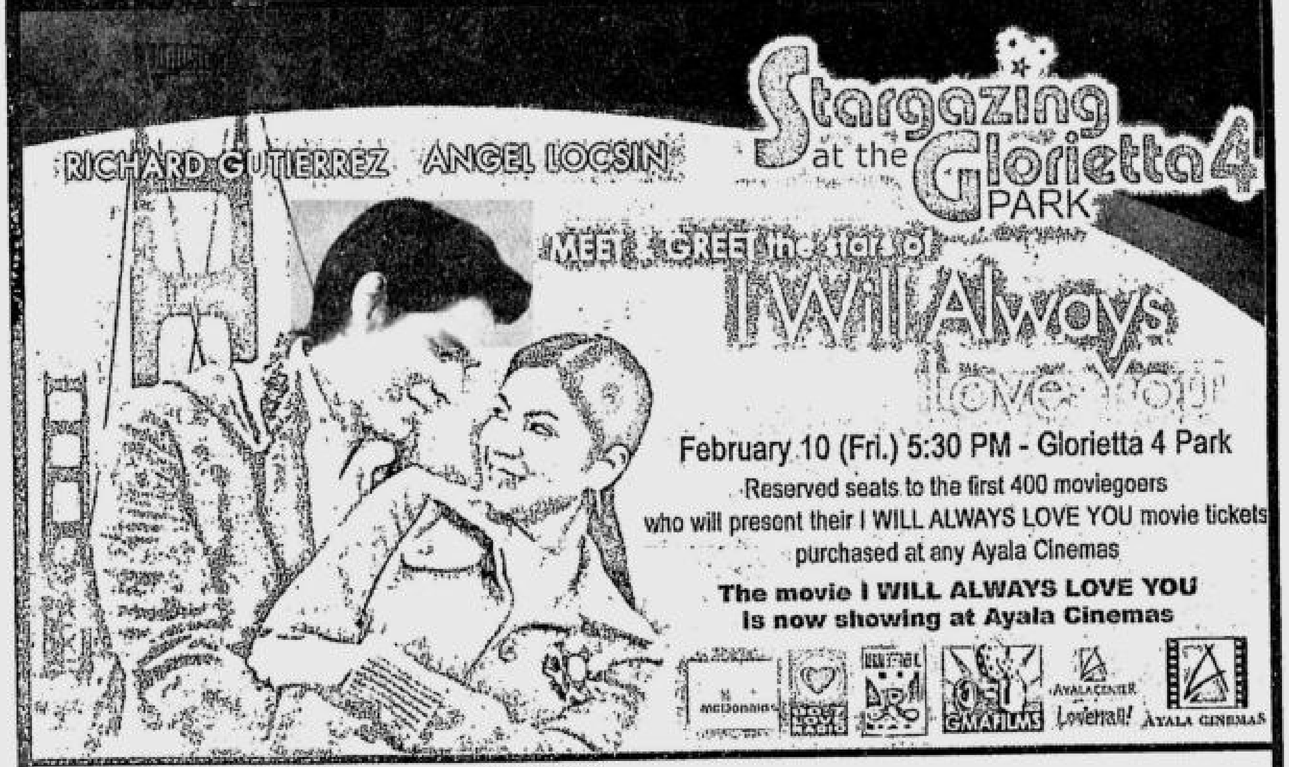
G1	1 FIREWALL	2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	3 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	4 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
G4	1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	3 THX THE NEW WORLD GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 DERAILED	5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	6 FIREWALL	7 MUNICH
GB1	1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	2 FIREWALL		
GB3	1 THX THE NEW WORLD GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WALK THE LINE GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DERAILED GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MUNICH GUARANTEED SEATS	5 FUN W/ DICK & JANE GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX FIREWALL	2 THE NEW WORLD		
	3 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	4 MUNICH	5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 FIREWALL	2 FUN W/ DICK & JANE	3 SAW 2	4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU


RICHARD GUTIERREZ ANGEL LOCSIN
Stargazing at the Glorietta 4 PARK
MEET & GREET the stars of
I Will Always Love You
McDonald's
GMA FILMS
AYALA CENTER Lovemall!
AYALA CINEMAS

February 10 (Fri.) 5:30 PM - Glorietta 4 Park

Reserved seats to the first 400 moviegoers who will present their I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU movie tickets purchased at any Ayala Cinemas

The movie I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU is now showing at Ayala Cinemas

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc

Movies are subject to change without prior notice
Customer Service Hotline: [illegible]-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P90.00

① I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
② FUN WITH DICK & JANE
③ DERAILED
④ FIREWALL
⑤ THE NEW WORLD

EVENTS! EVENTS!

Treats for Two

Buy 2 cinema tickets from Feb. 10 - 19, 2006 and get a chance to win an instant Valentine prize!

The 2 tickets must be bought for the same movie and on the same day.

Upon purchase, the moviegoer gets a chance to draw a coupon from the prize bowl.

If the coupon that was drawn indicates a prize, the moviegoer may redeem the prize instantly from the cinema ticket booth.

The moviegoer may only draw once for every pair of tickets bought.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-076, Series of 2006

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds

Lessons from...

From page A2-5

More personally, program host Willie Revillame has expressed his grief, gone on temporary leave from the show, and devoted his time to commiserating with the victims' relatives.

The show has also ceased telecasting for at least a week, and has been replaced by an "Alay sa Kapamilya" musical-inspirational tribute to the victims of the disaster. And ABS-CBN is shouldering the victims' medical and funeral expenses.

All of these moves are welcome, because they show that the TV network isn't shirking its responsibilities. Less welcome, however, are

LESSONS/ A2-2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 FUN WITH DICK & JANE
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 FIREWALL
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 MUNICH
1:05, 4:20, 7:40, 10:50
R-13

4 NEW WORLD
11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

① DERAILED
MTRCB R-13
11:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:30

② FIREWALL
MTRCB PG-13
12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00

③ MUNICH
MTRCB : R-13
11:15, 2:20, 5:25, 9:00

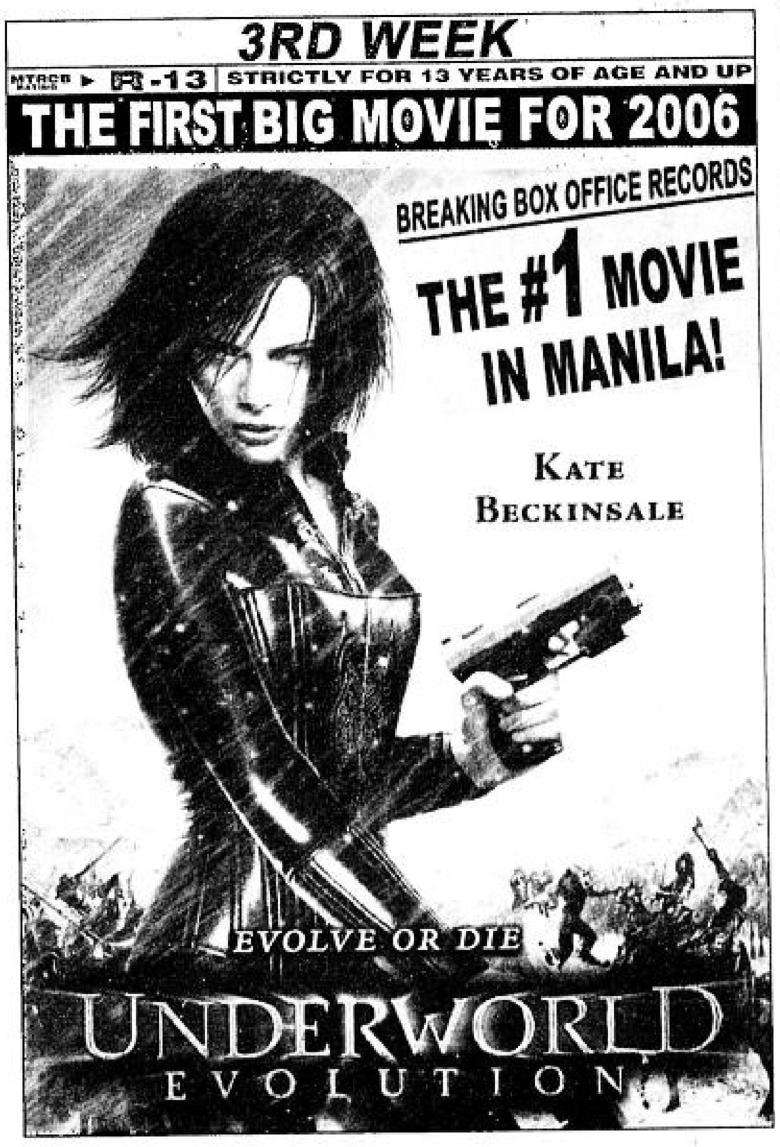
④ FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE THE NEW WORLD
MTRCB PG-13 1 30, 4 20, 7 10, 10.00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
Get a 10% discount coupon for a Geisha Pampering Scrub from Urban Spa when you buy your "Memoirs of a Geisha" tickets in advance
See posters for details
Promo period: Feb. 09-22, 2006 Per DTI-NCR
Permit No. A3-0139, Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227
633-4735 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

4TH RIB-TICKLING FUN DAY
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Jim Carrey Téa Leoni
Fun with Dick and Jane
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


3RD WEEK
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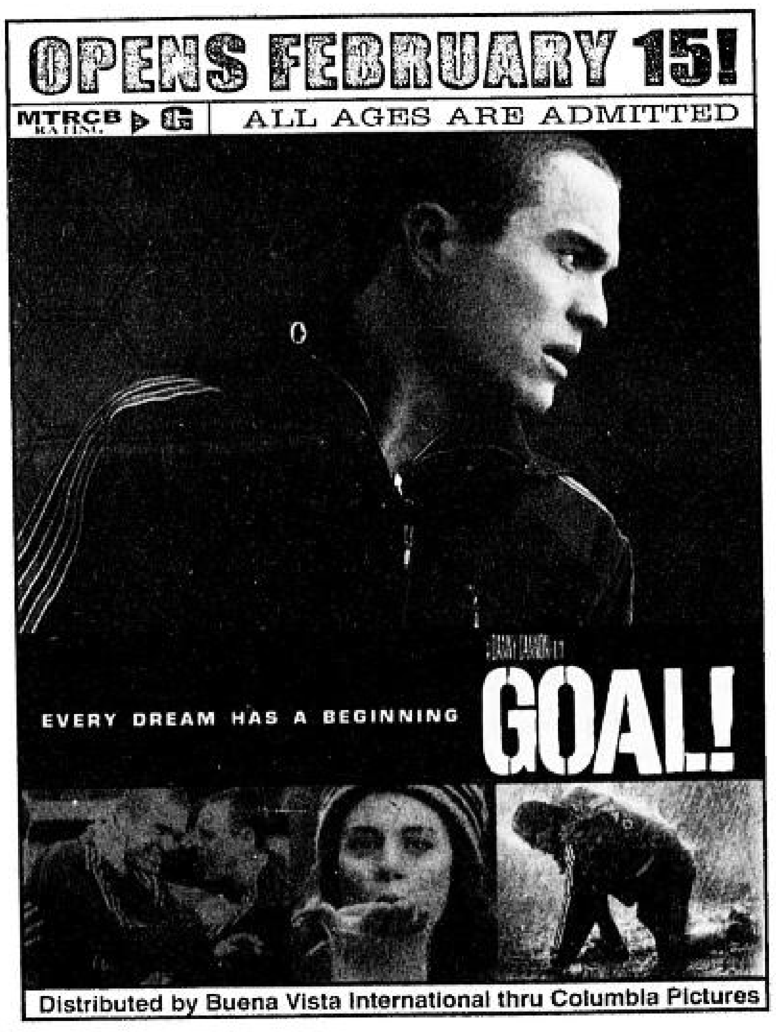
THE FIRST BIG MOVIE FOR 2006
BREAKING BOX OFFICE RECORDS
THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
KATE BECKINSALE
EVOLVE OR DIE
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION


OPENS FEBRUARY 15!
MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
EVERY DREAM HAS A BEGINNING
GOAL!
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 MUNICH 10:30 , 1:20 , 4:25, 7:30 , 10:30 R13
CINEMA 2 FUN WITH DICK & JANE 11:00 , 1:45 , 4:25, 7:05 , 9:45 PG13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinotertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 NEW WORLD 11:00 , 1:55 ,4:45, 7:35 , 10:25 PG13
CINEMA 4 FUN WITH DICK & JANE 11:40 , 2:20 ,5:00, 7:40 , 10:20 PG13
CINEMA 5 FIREWALL 11:40 , 2:20 ,5:00, 7:40 , 10:20 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

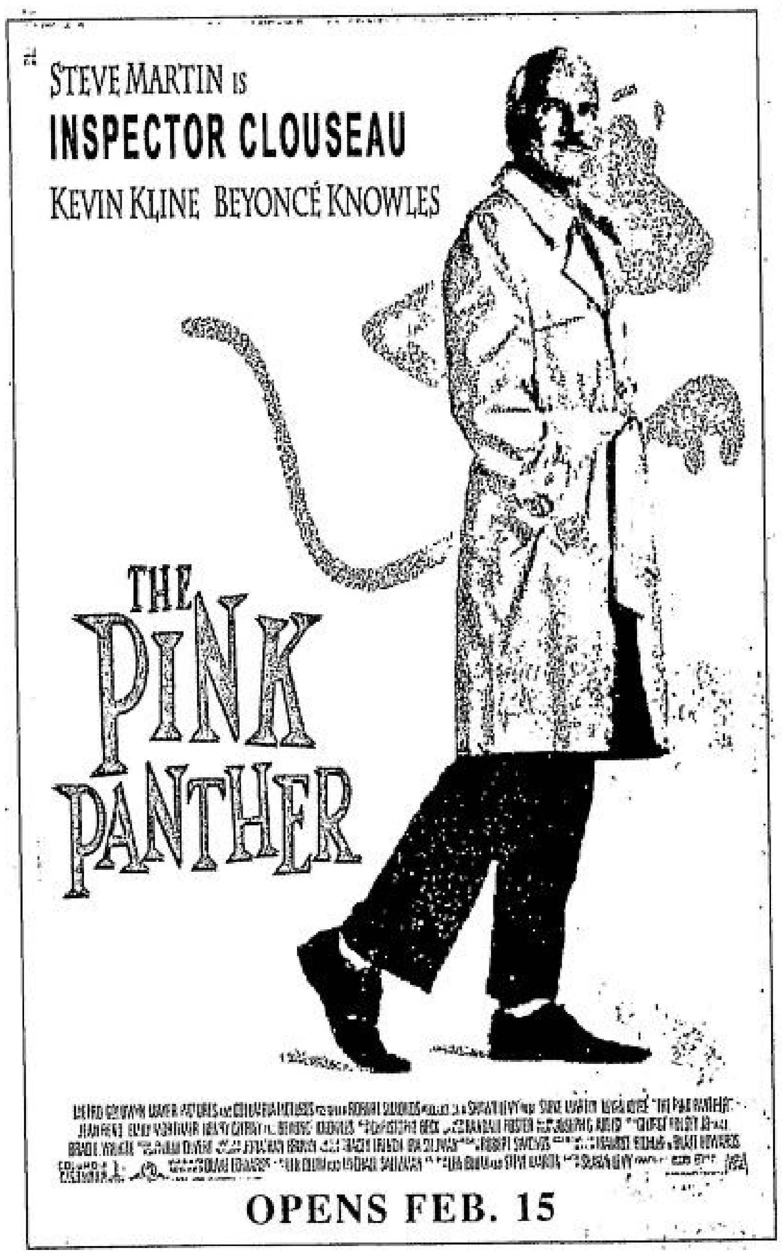
MUSIC MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 10,11 &13	VINA M. , RACHEL A. & GENEVA C	8:30PM
February 14, 2006	JESSA & DINGDONG AVANSADO	9PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

FEBRUARY 10,2006	BOBBY SOUL	9PM
FEBRUARY 11,2006	SIDE A	9PM
FEBRUARY 13 & 14	JAZZ YOU , JAZZ ME ISABELLA & RICHARD MERCK	9PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

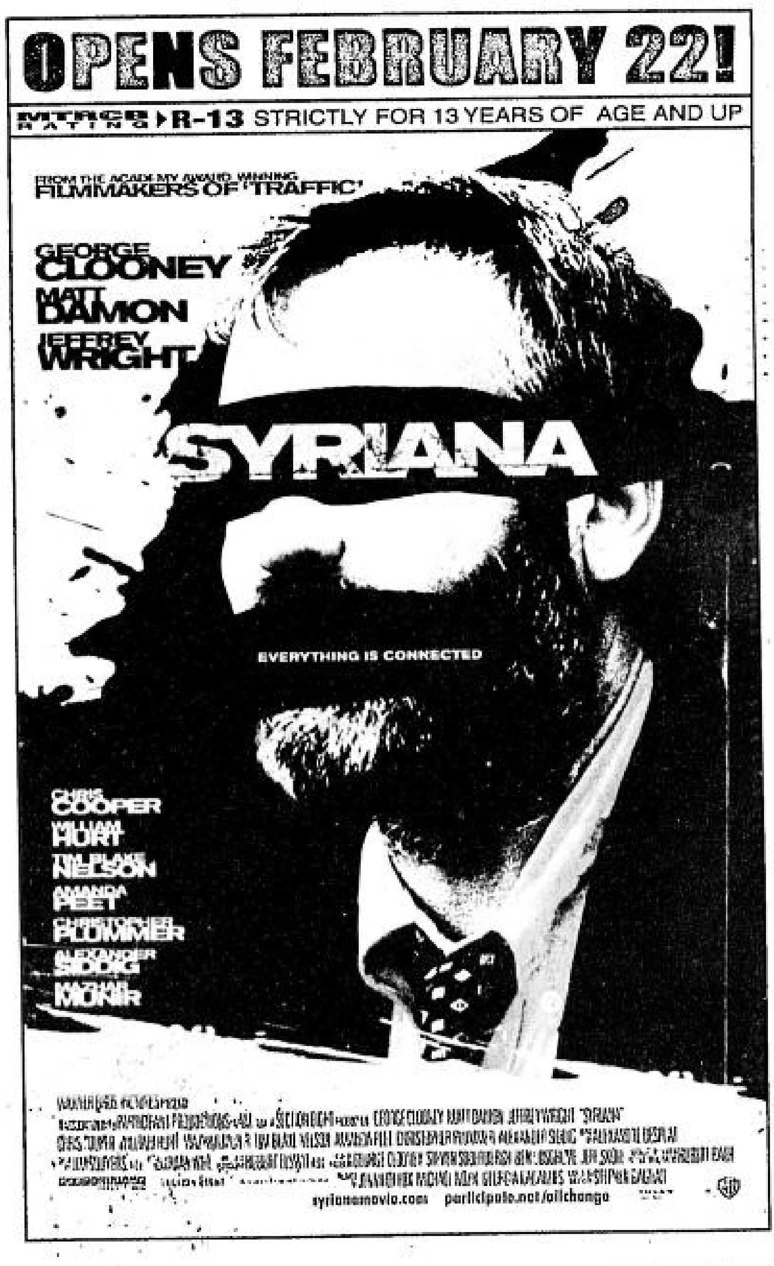

STEVE MARTIN IS INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU
KEVIN KLINE BEYONCÉ KNOWLES
THE PINK PANTHER
OPENS FEB. 15

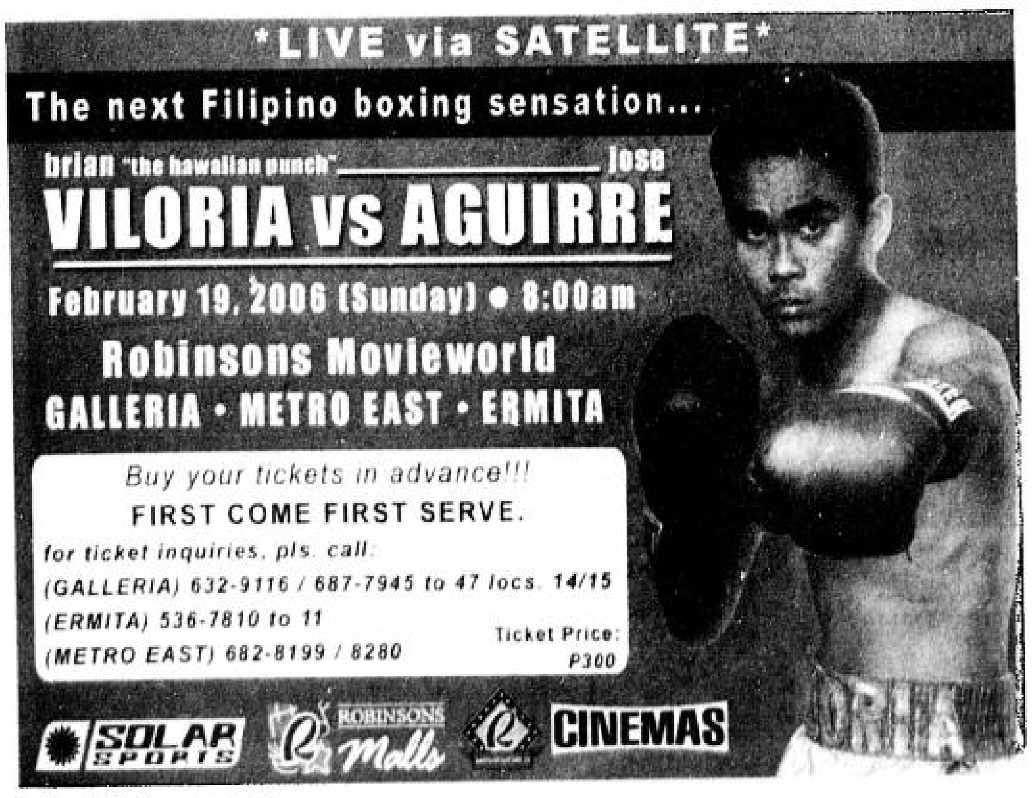
POWER PLANT CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

MUNICH R13 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	FUN WITH DICK AND JANE PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	WALK THE LINE PG13 12:05,2:50 FIRE WALL PG13 5:35,8:05,10:40
NEW WORLD PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20	DERAILED R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	FIRE WALL PG13 11:55,2:25,4:55, 7:25,10:00

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-14404!

A VALENTINE with ROCKIN' REVIVAL
and Sabor Latino
Feb 14 2006 8:00PM
POWER PLANT MALL


OPENS FEBRUARY 22!
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING FILMMAKERS OF 'TRAFFIC'
GEORGE CLOONEY MATT DAMON JEFFREY WRIGHT
SYRIANA
EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED
CHRIS COOPER WILLIAM HURT TIM BLAKE NELSON AMANDA PEET CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER ALEXANDER SIDDIG MAZHAR MUNIR
syrianamovie.com participate.net/oilchange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TIME MAGAZINE
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THE WORLD WAS WATCHING IN 1972 AS 11 ISRAELI ATHLETES WERE MURDERED AT THE MUNICH OLYMPICS.
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BEST DIRECTOR * BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
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A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
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STARRING ERIC BANA
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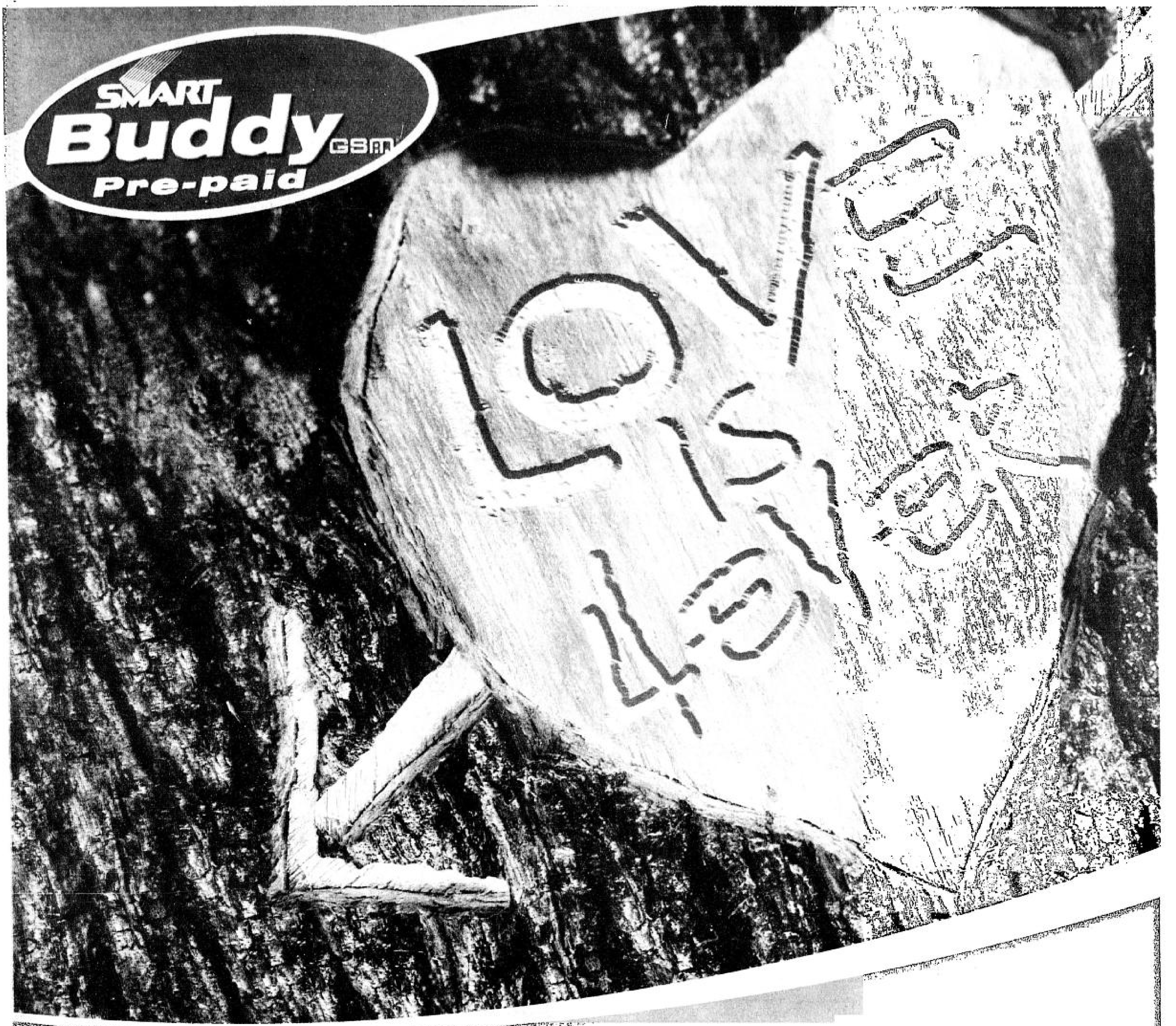
UNIVERSAL united international pictures AMBLIN DREAMWORKS PICTURES Solar Entertainment Corporation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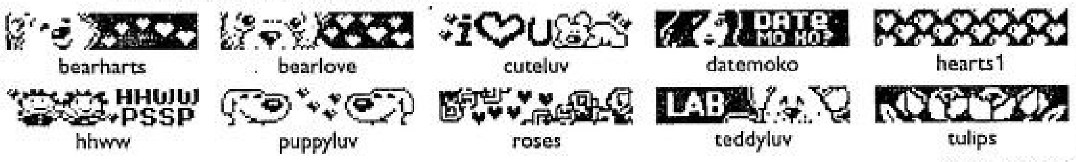
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hhww, puppyluv, roses, teddyluv, tulips

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Kiss mo Ko..
LAB U
LABS KITA
Tsup!
bearhart, bearluv, datemoko, hearts, hionluv
kissmoko, kittyluv, labskita, ligaw, tsup

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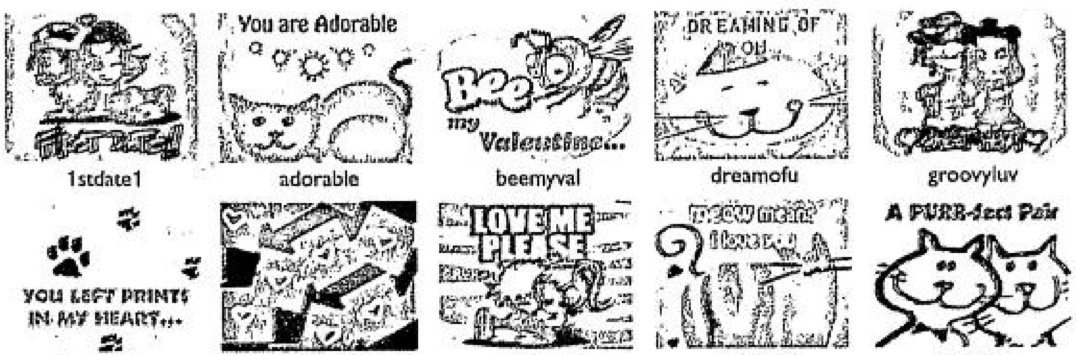
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Bee my Valentine...
DREAMING OF YOU
YOU LEFT PRINTS IN MY HEART...
LOVE ME PLEASE
meow means i love you
A PURR-fect Pair
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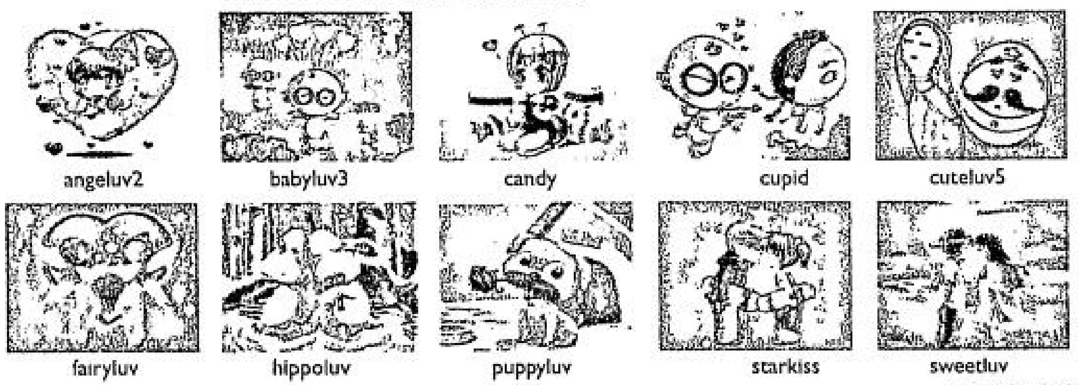
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fairyluv, hippoluv, puppyluv, starkiss, sweetluv

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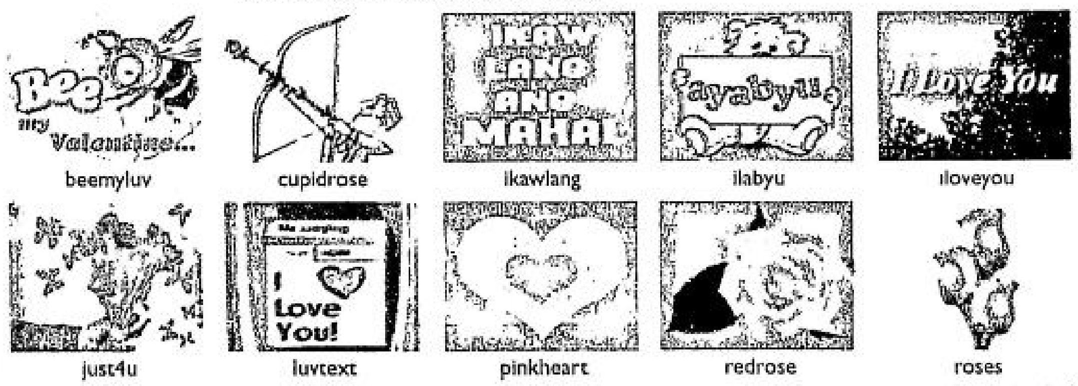
Bee my Valentine...
IKAW LANG ANG MAHAL
ayabyu
I Love You
I Love You!
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just4u, luvtext, pinkheart, redrose, roses

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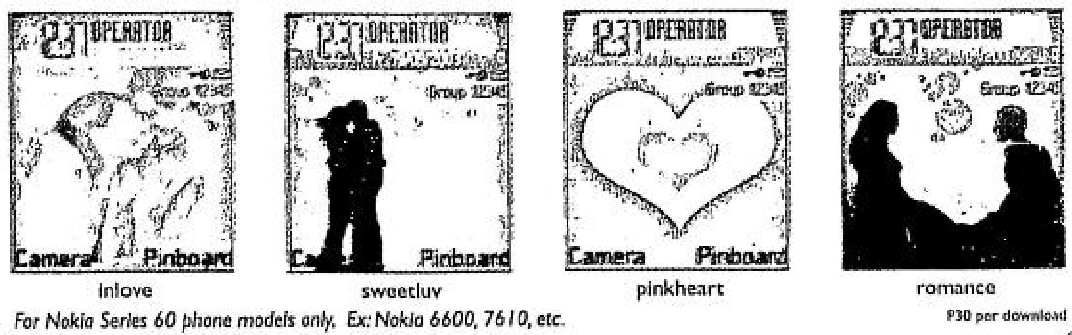
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Stars find love on the set

By Jocelyn Valle

KARYLLE AND DINGDONG. Work came first; romance followed much later.

BEFORE HE MEET JENNIFER Aniston on a blind date in 1998 and married her two years later, Brad Pitt was famous for falling for his leading ladies (Juliette Lewis in "Kalifornia" and Gwyneth Paltrow in "Seven"). So, when romantic insinuations between him and Angelina Jolie swirled, fans of the erstwhile golden couple were alarmed.

Jennifer, however, didn't have to look far to find someone to fill the void left by her ex-husband. While working on "The Break Up," she found a new love in her leading man, Vince Vaughn.

Ordinary folks

And, why not? Stars hook up with each other on the set, just like ordinary folks who find romance at the office. Celebrity couples create unwarranted buzz in tabloids and on talk shows that trivialize what matters most in their hearts.

Take it from Karylle and Nyoy Volante, who share

STARS/ A3-3

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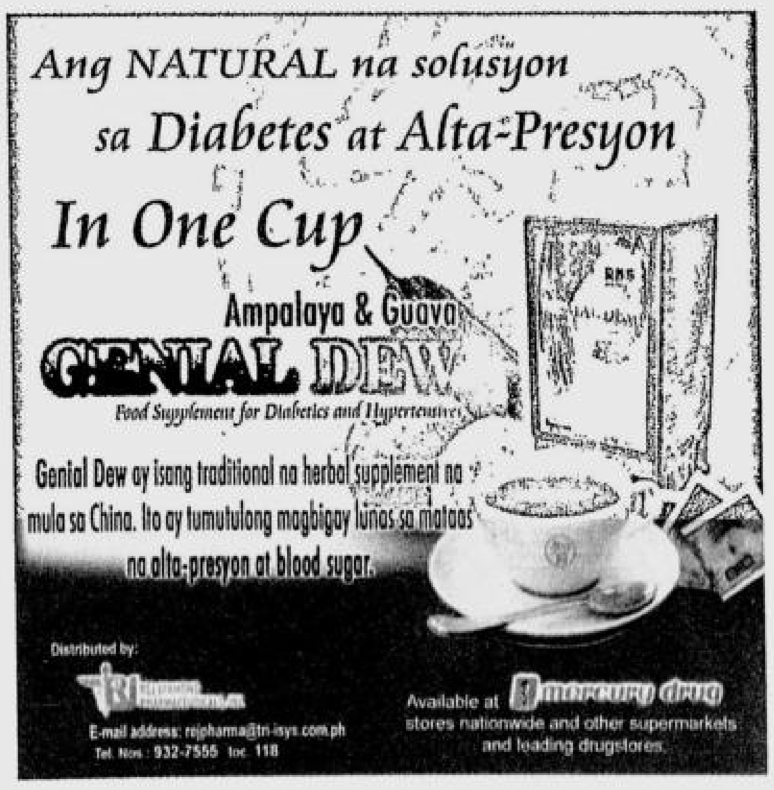
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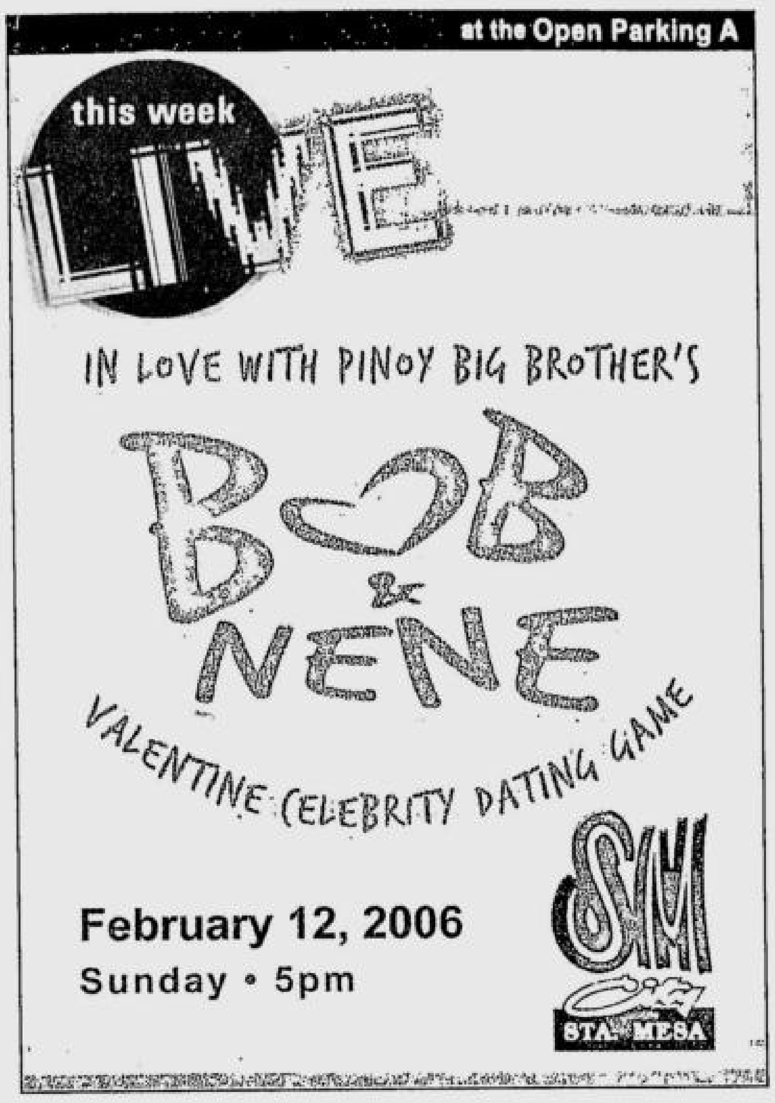
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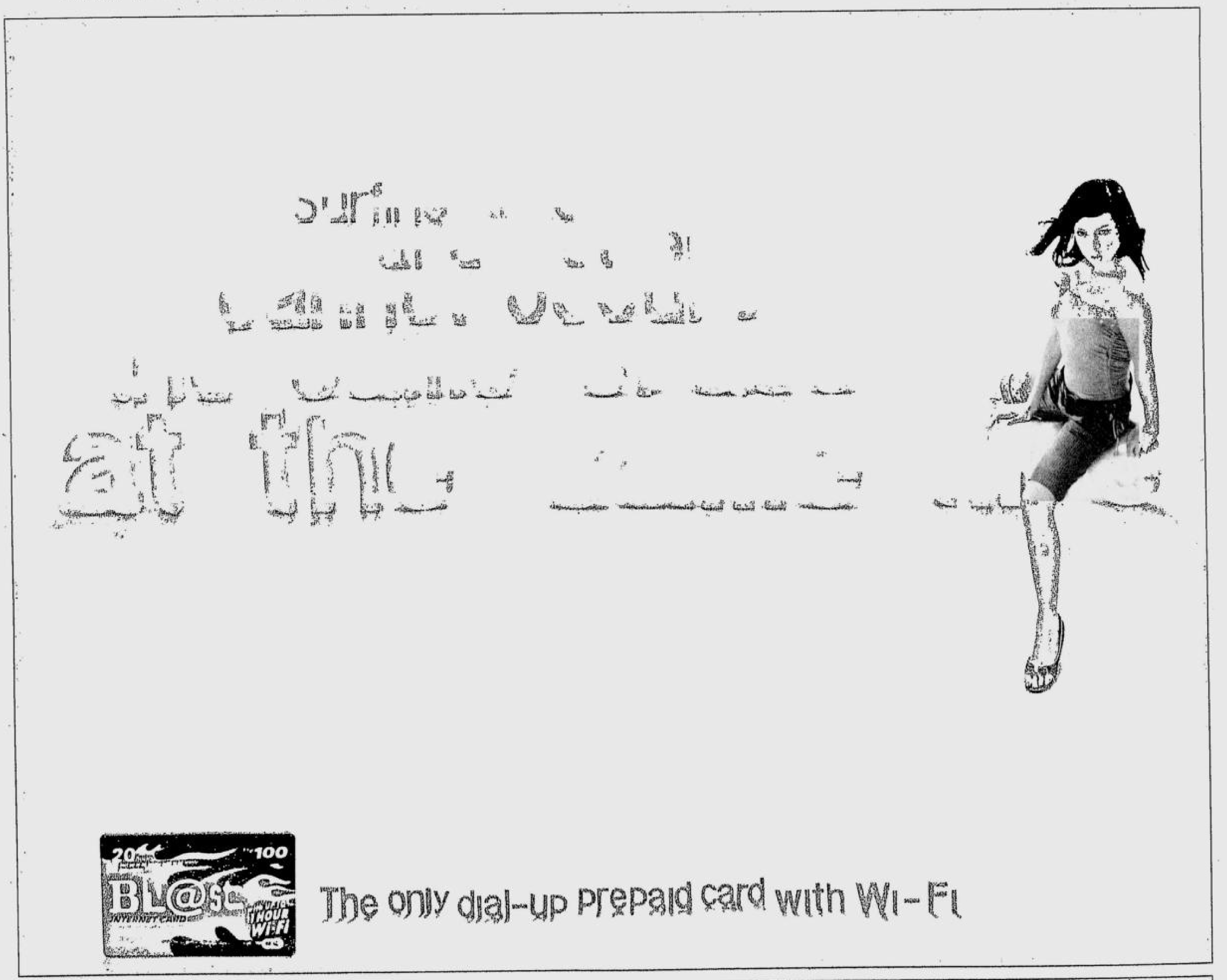
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Club Punta Fuego celebrates romance with a wedding exhibit

THE PREMIER RESIDENTIAL RESORT LOCATED in Nasugbu, Batangas, celebrates romance this February with the "Weddings at Club Punta Fuego" exhibit at the Main Club.

"We're becoming quite popular as a wedding venue especially last year", says Club Punta Fuego (CPFI) general manager, Xavi Gimeno. "The pictures with the spectacular views for backdrop are really beautiful so we invited the couples to have their photos displayed".

Co-presented by Epson Philippines and Kasal.com, the photos are printed with the STYLUS R210 inkjet printer on Epson premium glossy photo paper and up on display at the San Diego Restaurant from Feb. 10 to 26.

As a membership club, CPFI nuptials require endorsements, screenings and approvals, but as Xavi puts it, "It starts with a simple letter of intent and in the end it will all be worth it".

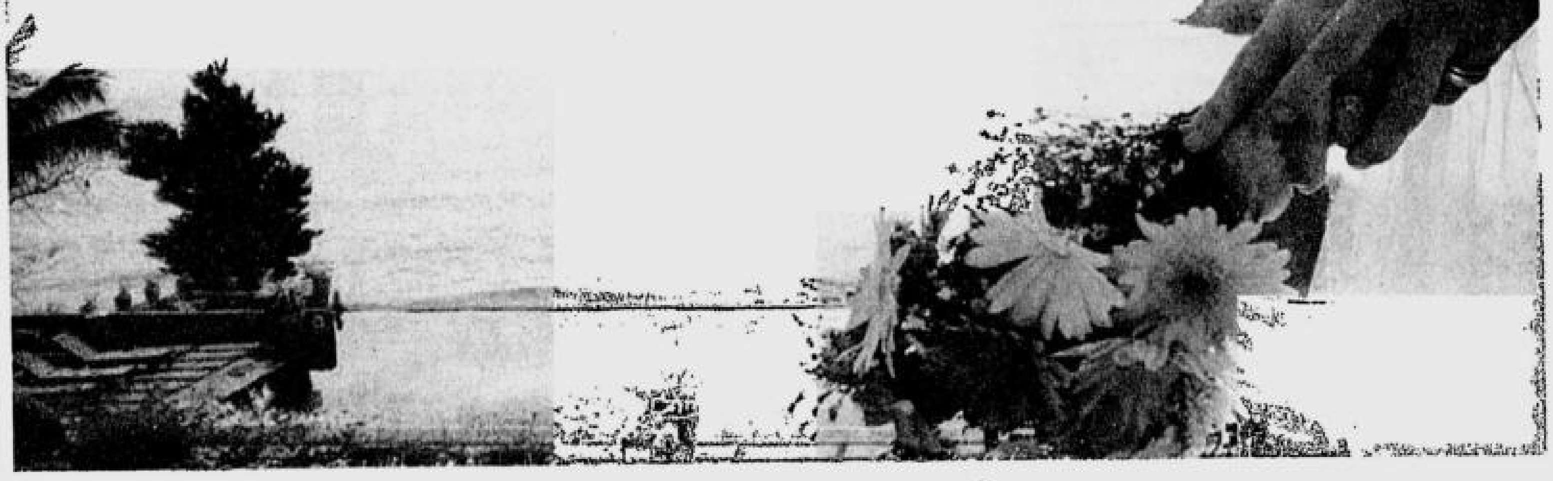
With so many different angles to choose from, the possibilities are infinite for personalized and unique ways to exchange vows. The "sunset beach" theme is most popular in Terrazas and Fuego Point while a "luau party" is always a hit at the Lower Beach. For one wedding, the couple even had a floating platform constructed at the trademark infinity pool for the ceremony.

For traditional Catholic rites, Punta Fuego houses the Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel also with its own view of the sea. Average catering packages cost P1,000++/person and other facilities include Casita accommodations, spa services, water sport activities and more.

The "Weddings at Club Punta Fuego Exhibit" highlights a month-long celebration of romance that also features Marques de Riscal as "Wine of the Month" and "Valentino", a special chocolate dessert by resident, chef Mikel Arriet.

Club Punta Fuego is developed by Landco Pacific Corp and operated by Fuego Hotels and Properties.

For inquiries, call (02) 751-4025 to 27.



Valentine rendezvous at the Manila Pavilion

IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY! DON'T LET THE occasion pass without showing your loved ones how truly special they are. At the Manila Pavilion Hotel, all sorts of Valentine treats are available to suit your style, making it the city's ultimate date place.

At the Patisserie, the Valentine Goodie Counter allows you to indulge in the season's sweetness with treats like cakes, cookies, and chocolates. Available from Feb. 1 to 15, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

At the Rotisserie, there's the Victorian Valentine, a luxurious meal served in a Victorian inspired ambience. Romance will flourish with its irresistible menu that includes Goose Liver Crème Brûlée with Sesame Grissini, Crab and Asparagus, Grilled Shitake Soup with Lobster Dumpling, Boursin Cheese and Dream Bits Ravioli in Sundried Tomato Nage, Champagne Zest Sherbet, U.S. Roast Beef Rib Eye and Jumbo Prawns, Strawberry Bavarois with Truffle Chocolate Ice Cream, and pralines. Available for lunch and dinner from Feb. 13 to 15 at P1,750+++ per person.

At the Peony Garden, the color of both love and Chinese cuisine come together in a red-hot offering called Passion at Peony. Choose from two set menus highlighting the goodness of Cantonese specialties. Available on Feb. 14.

Intimate suite Valentine at Astoria Plaza

A VERY MEANINGFUL AND EXCITING VALENTINE's Day is well spent with your special someone by checking in at Astoria Plaza's plush and hip 1 - bedroom suite. Have your private dinner in a unique and luxurious urban setting with a special 4-course Valentine set dinner menu that comes complete with butler service, serenader and a bottle of wine. Astoria Plaza's Intimate Suite Valentine room promo is available from Feb. 10 to 14, for only P5,900 net per night.

You can also celebrate the Day of Hearts with your eternal love by dining at the trendy Café Astoria. Avail of a special 5-course European Valentine's set dinner for only P750++ per person. Dinner includes a complimentary bottle of wine, pralines and a long-stemmed rose for the lady of the night with live entertainment. Lucky diners get a chance to win a pearl pendant from Jewelmer. Day of Hearts at the Café Astoria is available on Feb. 14.

Astoria Plaza's Valentine promo is brought to you in cooperation with Jewelmer, L'Oreal Paris and Preview Magazine.

The Astoria Plaza is an affiliate of the Cathay group of companies and is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels & Resorts. It is conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries and reservations visit or call tel. no. (02) 687-1111 and ask to be connected to room reservations or Café Astoria. Visit Astoria Plaza's website at www.astoriaplaza.com.

'Fresh is best' at Fiesta San Miguel

FIND OUT WHY "FRESH IS BEST," HANG out with friends and enjoy Fiesta San Miguel's unlimited servings of fresh brewed beer during the Happy Hour - 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for only P350 nett per person. And what goes better with beer? Music of course! Unwind to the hit music of the 70's and 80's every Monday with Big Bash Band. Let your adrenaline rush every Tuesday to the upbeat music of Trina with Spinart that will "let boys, be boys." Go down memory lane as Amadeus render guests the best of the 60's and 70's. Move and groove with Real Groove'S retro beat every Thursday.

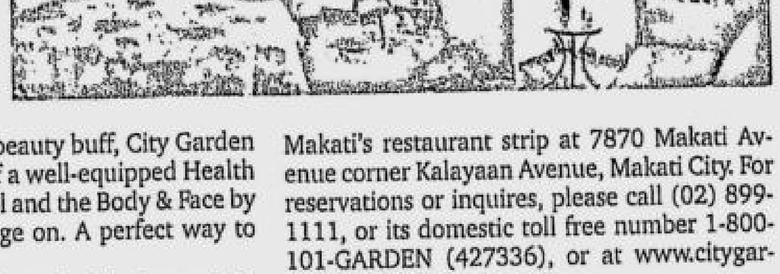
Fridays is rhythm and booze night with K24/7. Dance to the retro and rock & roll music of Bedroom Voice every Saturday. Fiesta San Miguel is located at the ground level of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Ayala Center, Makati. For inquiries, call 867-3333.

Wonderful month-long offerings only at City Garden Hotel

SINCE IT OPENED, CITY GARDEN HOTEL Makati, along Makati Avenue, has slowly gained the reputation of being the perfect hotel for businessmen, executives and individuals.

Its luxurious yet cozy environment immediately transports you away from the hustle and bustle of the city into its uniquely comforting environment, a perfect retreat for a stressed out businessman. Its 160-well appointed Italian inspired rooms make for a comfortable stay, without keeping one totally away from it all. For as low as P1,450 per person based on twin sharing, all the rooms are equipped with the latest room amenities.

For one-on-one meetings and get-together, City Garden Hotel Makati has two restaurants that you can choose from: Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline.



For the health and beauty buff, City Garden Hotel Makati boasts of a well-equipped Health Club, a swimming pool and the Body & Face by Mendez Spa, to indulge on. A perfect way to relax.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .

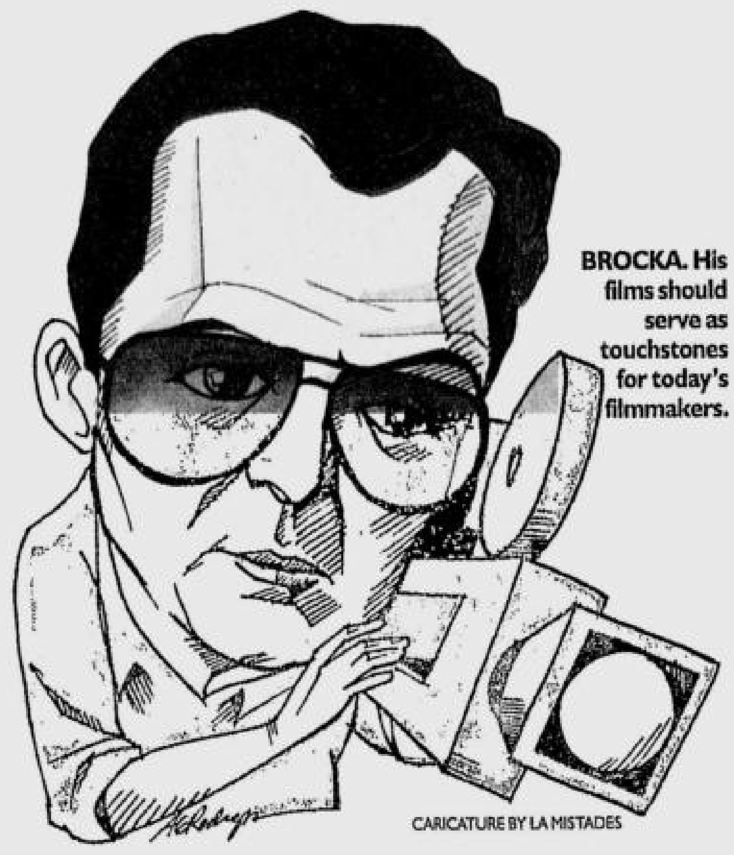
Jose Mari Chan serenades lovers at The Bellevue Hotel on Feb 14

THE CONCERT VENUE SOUTH OF METRO Manila, The Bellevue Grand Ballroom, plays host to lovers in love on Valentine's Day with "Thank You Love," a special show featuring top balladeer Jose Mari Chan and singers Aliya Parcs and Jennifer Uy, with musical direction by Archie Castillo. For only P1,500 inclusive of two standard drinks, sing along to romantic tunes and favorite lovesongs such as Chan's all-time hits "Beautiful Girl", "Let's Stop and Talk Awhile" and "Constant Change" at the elegant interiors of The Bellevue Grand Ballroom. Let's celebrate love with a candlelit dinner at the poolside of The Bellevue Manila. Avail of our extraordinary pre valentine set dinner on Feb. 13 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live acoustic entertainment. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Summer Place Hotel, Baguio City wins award

"CONGRATULATIONS TO SUMMER PLACE Hotel, Baguio City for winning as "Best Places to stay in Asia" at the recently held Global Excelence Awards in China. They have also won the "5-Star Quality Award" at the People's Choice Awards." "Eat-All-You-Can-Mongolian Buffet" for only P150 pesos is one of their best added dish in their Buffalo Restaurant. Visit them at the Travel & Tour Expo at the Sm Megamall from Feb. 10 to 12. For more inquiries visit www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com or call (02)783-8355 or (074)446-5400-01, 0916-374-2000.

Rediscovering Bernal and Brocka



BROCKA. His films should serve as touchstones for today's filmmakers.

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME VETERAN MOVIE PEOPLE HAVE complained to us that quite a number of students and young filmmakers don't really know much about National Artists for Film, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal.

They find this disturbing, because the two much admired and awarded directors haven't been gone all that long.

Lack of interest

What's going on here? Is it the relative unavailability of their movies on TV or on disc? Is it our shallow film culture? Is it lack of interest and enterprise on young people's part? —Or, a combination of all three?

Whatever or whoever the real culprits are, our Masscom teachers should do what they can to fill in the Brocka-Bernal blanks in young film buffs' consciousness.

After all, the two National Artists came up with some of the best Filipino movies of the '70s and '80s. Some filmmakers and film buffs in the New Millennium need to be steeped in their cinematic oeuvre, so that the new movies they make today can benefit from an essential sense of context.

Also, the best movies of Bernal and Brocka were so good that they're still unrivaled to this day. So, they can serve as touchstones for today's filmmakers, to challenge them to think big, deep and great in their own work.

The Film Academy of the Philippines and/or the Film Development Council of the Philippines should initiate a search for Brocka's movies, starting with "Wanted: Perfect Mother," through "Santiago," "Tubog sa Ginto," "Stardoom," "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "Insiang," "Jaguar," "Bona," "Bayan Ko, Kapit sa Patalim," "Miguelito," "Macho Dancer," "Orapronobis," all the way to "Gumapang Ka Sa Lusak."

First feature

Ditto for Bernal, from his first feature effort, "Ah, Basta, Sa Maynila Pa Rin Ako," which he didn't finish due to a disagreement with his producer, to "Pagdating sa Dulo," which he did—and all the way to his last, few films, including the remarkable "Wating."

The films of Brocka are particularly important for young film people to learn from, because of their strong political and social quotient.

They can teach young filmmakers to stop thinking of themselves, and focus instead on vivifying societal issues in their movies, to raise their viewers' national consciousness.

Versatile

For their part, Bernal's movies should give young film people a jolt, because they vivify the late filmmaker's awesome versatility.

He could do drama, comedy, historical action-drama, art films—and, best of all, social satire.

Thus, Bernal's films can teach today's filmmakers to stretch themselves so they don't do just one thing well, but try to handle different film formats, until they hit upon the movie type they can do best of all.

Now, if we could only find enough Bernal-Brocka films to make those major inspirational points come through . . .

Misery

(*Conclusion*)

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW DO YOU break away from attachment? If you are addicted to smoking or alcohol, you don't kick the habit by continuing to indulge in them. Similarly, a person may be "addicted" to someone who causes him misery.

Addiction is like getting caught in a sand trap while playing golf. You have to get out of the sand—and the only way to do that is to be on the green.

Attachment

Attachment springs from sense perception. Everytime you see, hear or touch a person, your attachment to him increases. If you want to break this bond, don't make compromises—just do it!

Breaking free from addictions isn't easy, but the only attachment worth cultivating is our bond with the Supreme Beloved. He is the best friend, brother, father and lover a person can ever have.

Chanting and sharing the names—Goopala, Jehovah, Allah, etc.—of the Supreme Person with other people is like giving them water. Speak words of truth about the Supreme Beloved and experience life.

Stars find love...

From page A3-1

their thoughts about their relationships (with Dingdong Dantes and Nina, respectively).

Dingdong, 25, and Karylle, 24, crossed paths in a restaurant near Ateneo, where she earned a degree in Communication Technology, while he majored in film and TV.

Karylle swears it wasn't a case of love at first sight. When she crossed over from musical theater and recording to TV in 2004, she got to work with Dingdong on the musical-variety show, "SOP."

But, it was only when she acted on "Twin Hearts," a soap opera featuring the love team of Dingdong and Tanya Garcia, that she got to know him really well.

Courtship

"He made grand gestures," Karylle recalls their courtship. "On my birthday (March 22), he prepared a fancy dinner in an exclusive restaurant—with a gorgeous view of Makati! He made sure that both my parents were there—he knew what would make me happy!"

On the other hand, Nina and Nyoy Volante likewise enjoy each other's company. "I have a lot of hobbies—I like painting," Nyoy shares. "Nina is very open to new things, so she easily relates to my interests. Now, she can paint as well!"

Though they've long been rumored to be playing beautiful music together, Nyoy clarifies that he and Nina went steady only last November.

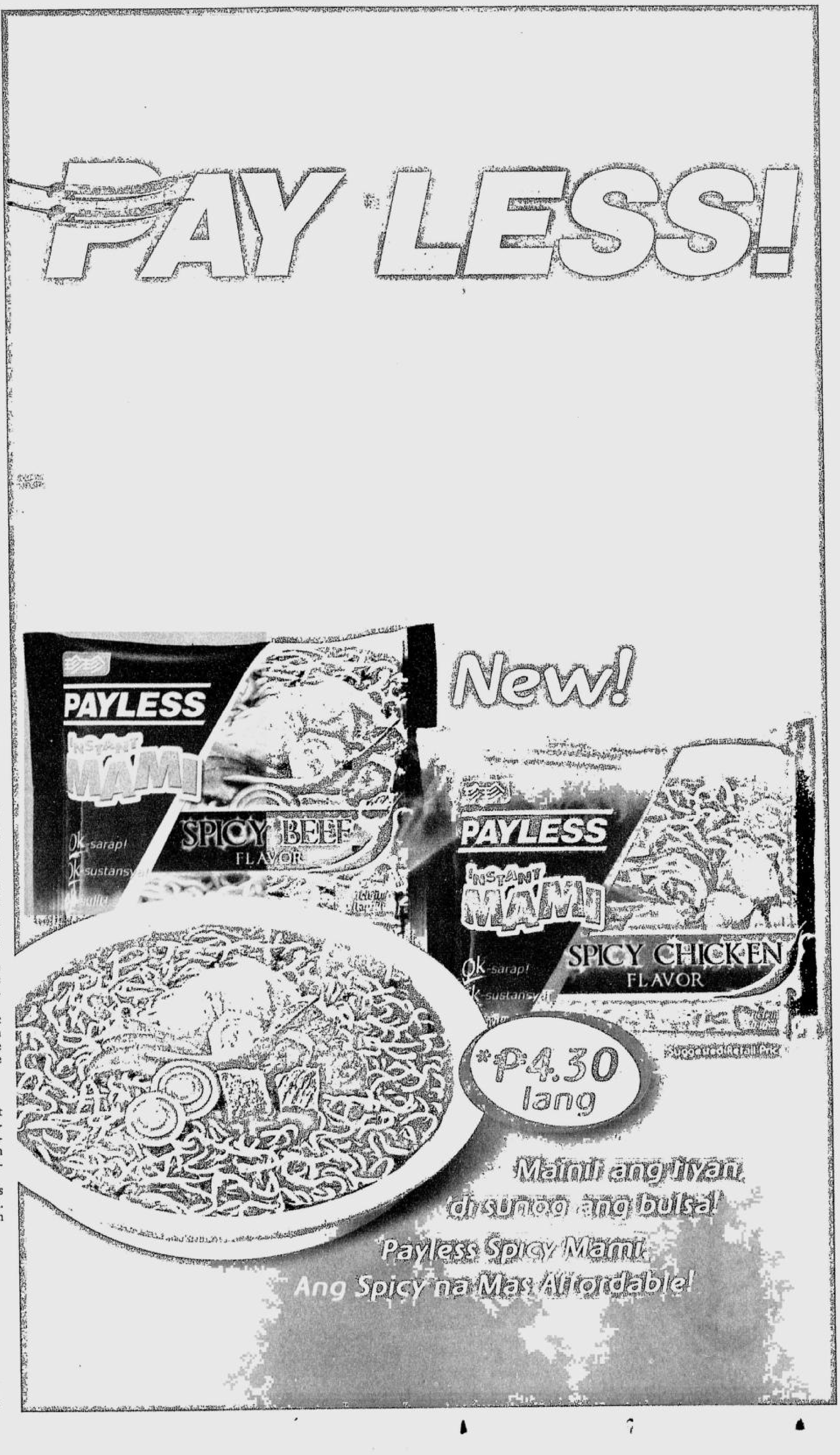
He shares that, as proponents of acoustic music, they worked together all the time. In the process, they became good friends. Love blossomed only when they started doing the concert series, "El Niño, La Niña."

Personal issues

"Our working relationship hasn't changed," he avers, "We don't let personal issues get in the way of our professional commitments. But, *mas madali ngayon* to perform duets. To avoid jealousy, we keep our communication lines open."

The musical pair will celebrate Valentine's Day with a concert at the Edsa Plaza Hotel. Nyoy adds, "*That's* one of the perks of being in the same field as your significant other!"

NYOY AND NINA. Share passion for music.



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Exports grew by 3.9% to $41.22B in '05

Growth target missed due to weak electronics demand

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S EXPORTS EXPANDED BY A MEASLY 3.9 percent to $41.22 billion in 2005, way short of the government's 10-percent growth target due to the sluggish global demand for electronics.

However, the National Economic and Development Authority said it expected a major recovery in 2006 as exports for December 2005 alone registered a substantial increase of 16.8 percent to $3.83 billion from the same month of the previous year.

Dennis Arroyo, Neda director for policy and planning, said the performance of the export sector in December indicated that it was headed for a rebound in 2006.

While electronics exports grew by only 2.2 percent to $27.3 billion for the whole of 2005, it registered a 15.7-percent growth to $2.59 billion in December.

Accounting for about 70 percent of the country's total exports, electronics have a huge influence on the performance of the Philippines' entire export sector. The weak demand for electronics last year, blamed partly on surging oil prices that reduced spending for non-basic goods, pulled export growth down.

But Arroyo cited forecasts that demand for electronics would be on an upswing this year, thus giving the Philippines a better chance of hitting the 10-percent export growth target for 2006. Although high oil prices are not yet totally factored out this year, economists said threats of a further rise in the cost of oil were lesser this year.

"We welcome the rebound in electronics, but what we want to see more is diversification of the country's exports," Arroyo said in an interview. Diversifying the country's exports was necessary to protect the country's exports from the volatility of demand for electronics.

Arroyo said the country should push for the development of other sectors outside electronics to maximize their revenue potentials.

He cited the 5.8-percent growth in garments exports for 2005 to $2.3 billion despite the phaseout of the quota system, which used to give the Philippines an assured market for its prod

EXPORTS/ B3

INDICATORS

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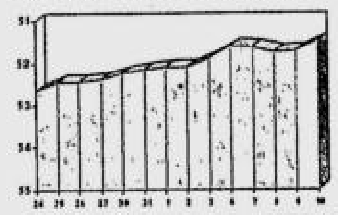

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¥117.59 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 10, 2006

GOLD: $557.50-558.00
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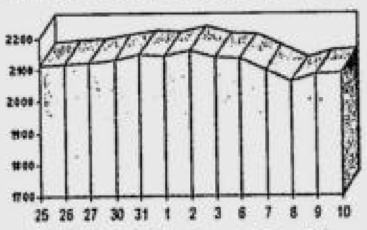
STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED FLAT YESTERDAY as the market consolidated after recent volatile trade, dealers said.

They said news that Standard and Poor's

SHARES/ B2

Bad timing, poor prospects hound First Gen listing

By Daxim L. Lucas

POWER GENERATOR FIRST GEN Corp.'s share price dropped below its initial public offering cost on its first day of trading yesterday as concerns over the company's earnings prospects weighed on the stock's performance.

The disappointing performance of the much-anticipated IPO came even as the local bourse managed to close marginally higher on the back of an upgrade by international credit watcher Standard and Poor's on the country's outlook to "stable" from "negative."

First Gen's stock ended the day at P45.50 apiece, 3.2-percent lower than its lowered offer price of P47 a share.

Market watchers were hardly surprised by the decline as interest in the stock had waned in recent weeks as sentiment swung against firms owned by the Lopez family due to a slew of regulatory and legal setbacks, and perceptions of increasing tension between the influential family and the Arroyo administration.

"There is the issue against Lopez stocks and the Meralco refund, even if it has no direct bearing on First Gen," 2TradeAsia.com research head Grace Cerdenia said in a telephone interview.

In fact, the company's stock failed to rise beyond its offer price—its first trade was done at P46.50—despite attempts by some buyers to push the price higher by posting bids as high as P48.50, all of which were later withdrawn.

First Gen's international underwriters—Credit Lyonnaise Securities Asia and UBS AG—emerged as the top supporters of the stock.

A total of P194.6 million worth of First Gen shares were traded on the bourse, making it the second most active stock after market heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The Phisix ended the trading day at 2,085.29, eking out a gain of only 1.64 points. Investor sentiment was mixed after S&P raised the country's outlook to "stable" while rival ratings firm Moody's Investors Service maintained its "negative" outlook on the country.

Cerdenia said First Gen's debut performance was also affected by uncertainty over the government's privatization schedule for its power generation

BAD TIMING/ B3

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Altis 1.6 E M/T	100,000	59,966	41,295	32,899	23,477	18,943	16,361
Altis 1.6 J M/T	100,000	54,835	37,761	30,087	21,470	17,324	14,961
Innova 2.5 G A/T	100,000	85,532	58,900	46,909	33,474	27,010	23,337
Innova 2.0 G A/T	100,000	80,041	55,119	43,900	31,327	25,278	21,838
Innova 2.5 G M/T	100,000	79,681	54,871	43,703	31,186	25,164	21,740
Innova 2.0 G M/T	100,000	75,090	51,709	41,187	29,391	23,715	20,487
Innova 2.5 E M/T	100,000	70,949	48,858	38,917	27,771	22,409	19,358
Innova 2.5 J M/T	100,000	62,937	43,341	34,527	24,638	19,881	17,172
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Truth fairy

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT that the Ultra stampede could not get any more tragic than it was, out came this clown from this cute administration of Gloriaetta to save the day.

Our hero was the head of the task force investigating the incident, created apparently due to insistent public demand (i.e. relentless media attack, preferably by the closest competitor of ABS-CBN, which is GMA-7).

And so the clown immediately came out in media to pin the blame on everybody else but the government.

The last time I checked, crowd control was, is, and always will be the job of the government. Period.

***

LIKE it or not, the event that became the Ultra tragedy was just a "promo" for a television entertainment show that went wrong--terribly, awfully, tragically wrong.

And now we want to know what caused the stampede. Maybe we can learn from it. Big-crowd events are everyday activities all over the world.

The task force, therefore, if it must do its job, has to find out the FACTS that led to the accident—you know, who was responsible and why it happened in the first place. The head of the task force becomes the ... well, "truth fairy."

Now, we already know who was responsible. The chair of ABS-CBN, Gabby Lopez, already went on record to accept full responsibility. It means that if the authorities ever decide to send to jail anyone of those connected with the ABS-CBN event, Lopez will take his or her place.

***

ANYWAY, in a highly charged soap operatic pronouncement, our comical hero from DILG talked of the victims at Ultra as having been treated like "animals."

In a stunning performance of verbal creativity, he sometimes switched to "hungry pack of wolves."

Really now! Me, I like to join promo events, too. I want to win in raffles at Christmas parties and press conferences. I join any and all kinds of games and contests to win prizes.

And that was basically the idea behind that tragic promo event at Ultra--it was all about winning prizes.

***

TALKING about big crowds, I am always ready and willing to kill to watch live entertainment, particularly the Ateneo-La Salle basketball games.

Believe me, the crowd in those events can be bigger and more delirious, even more excitable, than that one at Ultra.

Did I ever feel that I was treated like an "animal" or a "hungry wolf" because I wanted to watch concerts, basketball games or win prizes?

Surely, they treat crowds in this country just about the same as elsewhere in the world. Meaning, nobody pretty much minds you—not the police, not the security guards, and definitely not the guys from city hall, because we always take them for granted as everyday happenings!

***

BUT, all of a sudden, we turned the Ultra tragedy into an issue about poverty.

In effect, we were saying that people were so poor that they wanted to win prizes in the ABS-CBN show.

It was to me an amazing conclusion, and up to now I am not ready to subscribe to the idea that poverty alone made people want to attend the Ultra event.

Alright, the host of the ABS-CBN show Wowowee is obnoxious. Still, the real come-on of the show was the chance for people to win prizes.

The desire to hit the jackpot is not limited to the poor. Everybody wants to win prizes. It's the idea behind every promo.

Golf tournaments, for instance. They offer brand new cars to players who make hole-in-one shots. It is a come-on, a promotion for the tournaments. Do you think the participants need the car?

Look, the rich guys are induced to buy expensive cars with a raffle of one of the same expensive car.

That's more like being treated as animals or a pack of hungry wolves.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Feb. 10, 2006)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36	35	35	390,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	58.5	58	58.5	456,900
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	900
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63	63	62.5	62.5	46,300
International Exch. Bank	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	130,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	32	31	31.5	689,300
Philippine National Bank	31	31.5	31	31	2,800
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	6,900
Security Bank Corp.	38	38.5	38	38.5	31,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	13,300
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3100	3150	3100	3150	2,780
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	146	146	146	146	11,200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2170	2185	2170	2185	5,620
Ivantage Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.69	1,990,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	46.5	47	45.5	45.5	4,220,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	45.5	42.5	44	853,500
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	14	13.5	14	31,900
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	268,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	4,375,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	3,693,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	500,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	390,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	14,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.25	21.25	20.75	20.75	38,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36	35	36	124,700
Pancake House Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	693,000
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.72	547,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62	62.5	61.5	62.5	74,600
San Miguel Corp. B	84	84.5	84	84.5	90,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	1,580,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	1,390,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	40,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	150,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	60,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	1,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	325	332.5	325	330	48,690
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	1,932,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	4,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	110,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	450,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	500,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	1,672,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,100,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.4	184,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,330,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	12,000
Solid Group Inc	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	1,780,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	3,010,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	221	218	220	129,170
South China Resources Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	2,510,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	4,033,500
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	610,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.24	14,650,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.52	1.54	206,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	28,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	2,330,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	800,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	7,791,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.38	2.42	2.38	2.42	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	3,380,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	4,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	5,225,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	1,800,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.175	0.16	0.165	5,300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	250,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	3,020,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	278,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	4,890,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	39,700
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	32,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.89	1,170,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	750	745	750	31,090
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.15	1,722,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1755	1755	1745	1750	330,700
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	220,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.3	205,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	60,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	3,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.03	0.027	0.029	973,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.82	1,001,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	439,400
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	2,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.68	1.76	1.68	1.76	5,310,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	119,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	890,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	580	580	580	580	160
Ipeople Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	92,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	311,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	44	44	44	44	4,200
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.44	21,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6	5.9	5.9	591,000
Benguet Corp. A	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	5,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.225	1,430,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.27	9,850,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	55,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.026	71,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	92,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.7	9,075,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.04	2.04	1.96	1.98	4,780,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27.5	26.5	27.5	361,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	140,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	50,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	118,700

DISCLOSURES

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. will hold its annual shareholders' meeting on May 15, 4 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel. Shareholders on record as of March 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the said meeting.

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PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. listed an additional 27,360 common shares on Feb. 10.

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SUN LIFE Financial Inc. shareholders on record as of Feb. 22 will be entitled to a cash dividend of Cdn$0.275 payable on April 3. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

February 10, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.834725	1.000000	51.8560
Japan	Yen	0.007025	0.008416	0.4364
United Kingdom	Pound	1.453172	1.740900	90.2761
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107548	0.128843	6.6813
Switzerland	Franc	0.642244	0.769408	39.8984
Canada	Dollar	0.728762	0.873057	45.2732
Singapore	Dollar	0.512069	0.613459	31.8115
Australia	Dollar	0.617537	0.739809	38.3635
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.214711	2.653224	137.5856
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222593	0.266667	13.8283
Brunei	Dollar	0.510503	0.611583	31.7142
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021105	0.025284	1.3111
UAE	Dirham	0.227265	0.272264	14.1185
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.198000	62.1235
Argentina	Peso	0.272341	0.326264	16.9187
Brazil	Real	0.383693	0.459664	23.8363
Denmark	Kroner	0.133963	0.160488	8.3223
India	Rupee	0.018928	0.022676	1.1759
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223876	0.268204	13.9080
Mexico	New Peso	0.079596	0.095356	4.9448
New Zealand	Dollar	0.565110	0.677002	35.1066
South Africa	Rand	0.136301	0.163289	8.4675
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.001028	0.0533
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025785	0.030890	1.6018

Shares close flat

From page B1

had upgraded its credit-rating outlook on the country to stable from negative was offset by rival Moody's decision to leave its ratings unchanged despite hopes an improvement in the fiscal position would get a vote of confidence.

The composite index rose 1.64 points at 2,085.29 after trading between 2,075.06 and 2,085.29. Volume was 1.54 billion shares worth P1.1 billion.

The all-shares index was up 1.40 points at 977.73.

Losers led gainers 40 to 34, while 55 stocks were unchanged.

"Perhaps, Moody's was just being honest. Standard and Poor's was being kind," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities Inc. of the different rating actions.

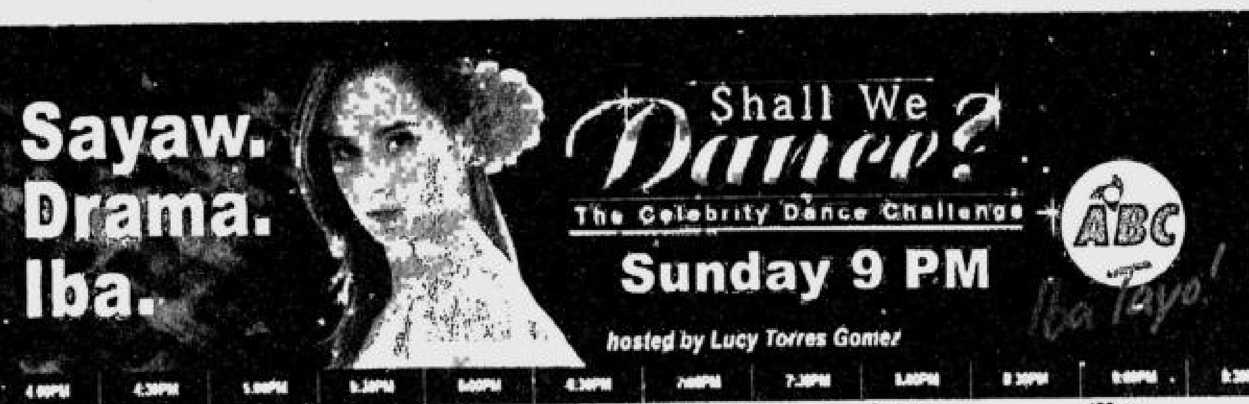
2TradeAsia.com said in an advisory that market participants may have sided with Standard and Poor's encouraging view of the country's macroeconomic prospects while the central bank's decision to keep its key interest rates steady may have also encouraged some buyers.

"Part of the evidence supporting this optimistic tone has been firmly established in the foreign exchange market, given the peso's strength vis-a-vis the US dollar," 2TradeAsia.com said. (See story on this page.) *AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, February 11, 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Blind Item		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginiig		Little Big Star	Komiks		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		The Foreigner				WRC 2006: Sweden		Gamemax	E Buzz	The 4400 (Season 2)		Fear Factor (Season IV)		Las Vegas		Enough			
Cartoon Network	X-Men Evolution	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans				Courage The Cowardly Dog	Battle B-Daman	The Gransazers	Xiaolin Showdown	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Space Ghost Coast to Coast
Cinema One	Jologs				Mr. Suave				My Movie				Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin				Six		
Cinemax			Till Proven Innocent			Clear And Present Danger					Glass Trap			Ordinary Decent Criminal			Tremors 4 The Legend Begins		
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	International Correspondents	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Next@CNN	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel		Secrets Of The Buried Armies		Unsolved History		Power Zone				Zero Hour		New Detectives		Crime Stories		A Haunting		American Chopper	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Pool Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	World Snooker Tour Grand Prix				Sportscenter Asia		Winter X Games Classix	NBA Game Mavericks @ Nuggets				
ETC		Love Shack		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Saturday Night Live		The O.C. 2		Beauty & The Geek		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss? II	Who's The Boss? II	The Locket				Wedding Daze (5:20 PM)			Murder Without Conviction				Colditz					
HBO			Hellboy				Absolute Power				The Flintstones (Movie)			Ocean's Twelve				Anaconda	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		[illegible]	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		TBA				Bitag		Philippine Sabong Sports	Bantay Ozone Layer		
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	X-Play	Cinematech	Bottomline		Raw				Family Guy	Banzai	Mad TV		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Dale Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Marge		NY Fashion Week	Ultimate Hollywood Blonds		Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	VH1 Behind The Music		MTV Hits	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	Alicia Keys Unplugged		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		The Astounding World		Frontiers Of Construction				Be The Creature		Built For The Kill		Dangerous Encounters		The Kung Fu Dragons Of Wudang		Made In Hong Kong		Stuntmen Of Bollywood	
NBN				Corporate Billiards League		Concert at the Park		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk To Harry		GSIS Member's Hour		Isang Hour On NBN				Auto Focus	
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	Blooming Nick-Valentine's Day Special		The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Sa Totoo Lang				Banyuhay				Swindler's List				Filipinas				Kilabot At Kembot
Qtv		3R	Kiddy Grade	Candies		Fam Jam		Fans Kita		Ayll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupie TV	
RPN 9		Open Line	Pagcor Sports Kol	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo Kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				Money Talk	
SBN 21								Sony Music Video		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepards Video		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		UMTLBA Basketball				WTA 2005 Tour Champs by UA Round Robin				GWS 06-2006	NBA Jam	NBA Game Spurs @ Nets					Copenhagen Masters Finals Mixed Doubles		
Sports Plus				PAC 10 Basketball Stanford @ Arizona				World Poker Tour 2				Ultimate Fighting Championship				FBR Open Highlights		AT&T Pebble Beach Nat'l Pro-Am Day 2	
Star Movies	Urban Legend			Marked For Death (4:10 PM)	Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde			Nine Months (7:15 PM)				Around The World In Eighty Days				28 Days Later			
Star World		The Contender/American Idol 2006		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe		The Chronicle News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		The Kumars At No. 42	Less Than Perfect
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gilmore Girls (7:50 PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

DOF: S&P upgrade reflects strides in RP reforms

Foreign markets recognize improvements ahead of rating firms

By Michelle V. Remo

STANDARD & POOR'S DECISION TO UPgrade its outlook on the Philippines may lead to an improvement in the country's credit rating which, in turn, is expected to lower cost of the country's foreign borrowings and bring in more investments and jobs, according to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

The finance chief welcomed the upgrade, saying that the credit-rating firm's recognition of developments in the country's fiscal sector boosted the credibility of the government's development plan.

"The upgrade in their outlook and general market sentiment reflect increased investor confidence in the Philippines," Teves said in a statement.

Standard & Poor's (S&P) announced Thursday night that it had revised its outlook on the Philippines from "negative" to "stable," citing the government's effort to follow through on its fiscal reform programs.

A "stable" outlook means that the country's credit rating is safe from a downgrade in the near term, and may even be headed for an upgrade. Currently, the Philippines' credit rating by S&P stands at three notches below investment grade.

The S&P upgrade followed the decision of CalPERS, a pension fund manager based in the United States, to retain the Philippines in its list of investment sites, as well as the announcement that the national government's budget deficit last year stood much lower than the official ceiling.

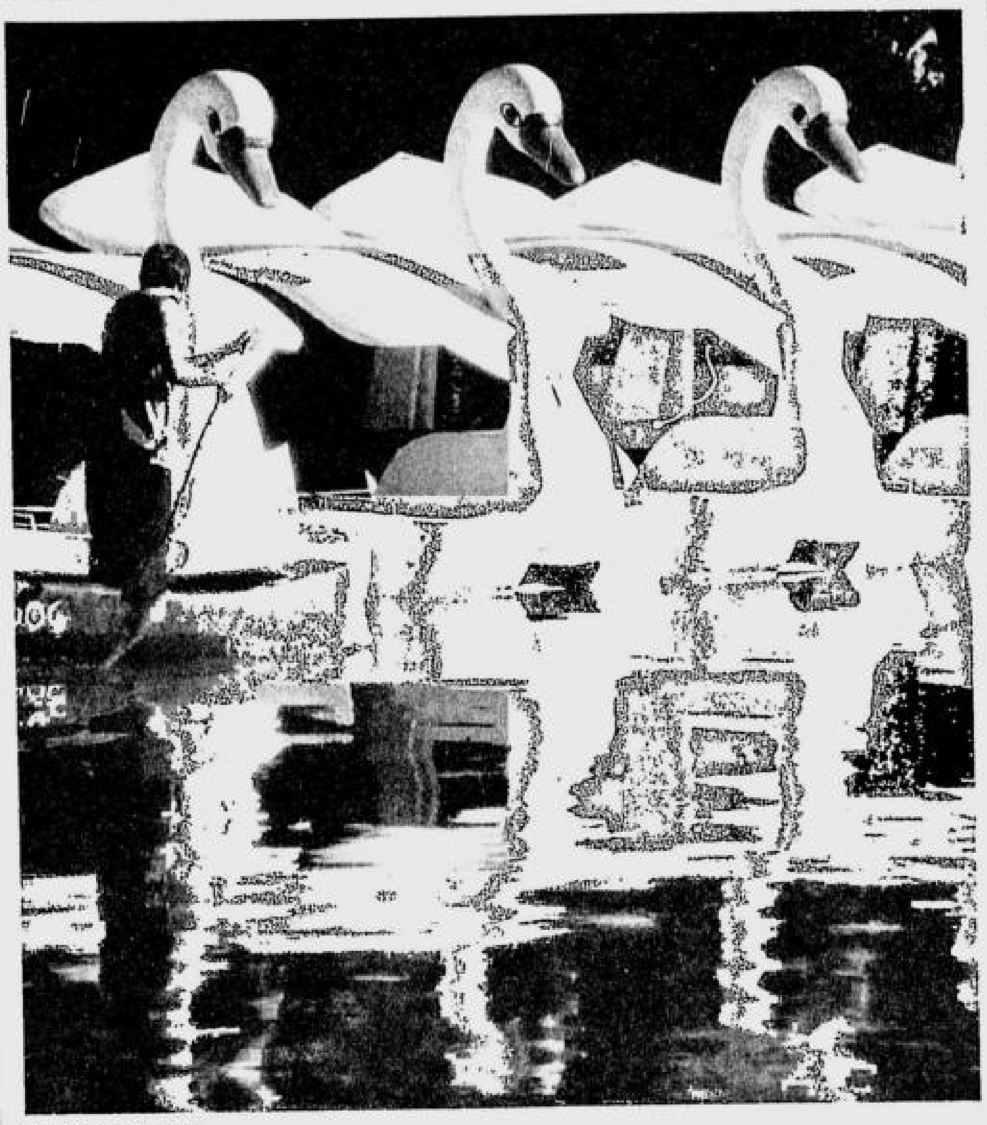
The Department of Finance said the Philippines deserved the upgrade, which was already overdue, considering the substantial improvements in the fiscal sector.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the foreign capital market had recognized the country's fiscal developments ahead of the credit rating agencies.

The S&P decision ran counter to that of another credit-ratings firm, Moody's Investors Service, which retained its "negative" outlook on the Philippines.

Finance officials said that Moody's failed to take into account the improving deficit figures of the country and the implementation of fiscal reform programs, such as the value-added tax law.

Moody's decided to keep its outlook on the Philippines, citing uncertainties on whether the government could really generate the additional revenues under its fiscal reform measures, such as the VAT Reform Law. The ratings firm also cited lingering political concerns.



SWAN LAKE
A boatman of Burnham Lake cleans up the man-made attraction, shortly after the area was pummeled by strong rains. The boatman, Joel Ramboyong, says he is not paid for his effort to clean up the lake. He says that he just wants to ensure that the tourists visiting Baguio City this month, will want to take leisurely boat rides on the lake. The tourism season in Baguio began last Christmas and would culminate in the flower festival this February.
EV ESPIRITU

Smart to offer non-expiring pre-paid load

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. IS ALL SET to offer prepaid text loads that do not expire within days.

On Feb. 12, Smart will begin offering non-expiring credits under Load All Text 10 and 20, which will be retailed at P12 and P23. Normally, P30 worth of load expires within three days.

The promo offering will last until March 13. It will give subscribers overnight unlimited text messaging from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

All Text 10 comes with 10 SMS and P1 worth of airtime, while Text 20 comes with 20 SMS and P1 worth of airtime. Airtime allows a customer to use the text load even if he has no credit.

The catch, however, is that the P1 free airtime expires in one day for the Text 10, and within two days for the text P20.

"The 10 or 20 SMS do not expire and may be accumulated, so subscribers may use them anytime they want," said Butch Jimenez, head of Smart's Wireless Consumer Division.

A Smart official explained that a minimum of P1 airtime is needed for the network to recognize the P10 or P20 All Text Load. The free airtime has to expire in order for Smart to churn additional volume.

As for the two-percentage point hike in the value-added tax, Smart said it will have minimal impact on subscribers.

Postpaid users of Smart may have to pay a bit more for services in their next billing cycle.

But prepaid subscribers, who comprise more than 95 percent of Smart's 20-million client base, will not be affected by the increase in the value-added tax rate to 12 percent from 10 percent, which took effect on Feb. 1.

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NA TAWAD.	NA TAWAD.
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sa Globe posible

Promo extended 'til February 14, 2006 as approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7181, S. 2005.
See print ad for details.

Exports grew . . .

From page B1

ucts. Garments is the country's second biggest export product for last year.

The Neda earlier said Malacañang had ordered Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines to release P10 billion for lending to small and medium enterprises (SME), a move aimed at diversifying the country's exports by boosting small industries outside electronics.

The National Statistics Office said top exports for 2005 aside from electronics and garments were: coconut oil, $657.22 million; petroleum products, $585.75 million; ignition and other wiring sets, $61.6 million; bananas, $39.86 million; metal components, $32.7 million; woodcrafts and furniture, $29.8 million, and pineapple and pineapple products, $22.22 million.

The biggest market for Philippine exports last year was the United States, which accounted for $7.4 billion. Exports to the United States were up 4.4 percent from 2004.

Japan was the second biggest market, buying $7.2 billion of total exports. Earnings from export to Japan were, however, down by 9.8 percent from 2004.

The NSO said other major markets for the Philippines last year included the Netherlands, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Germany, and Thailand.

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture/equipment, appliances, and computer equipment, on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on February 13 & 14, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Last day of sale will be on Wednesday, **February 15, 2006 from 8:30 to 2:00 p.m.** at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on Friday, February 17, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-96-84, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI-Feb. 4,5, 11 & 12, 2006)

Bad timing, poor . . .

From page B1

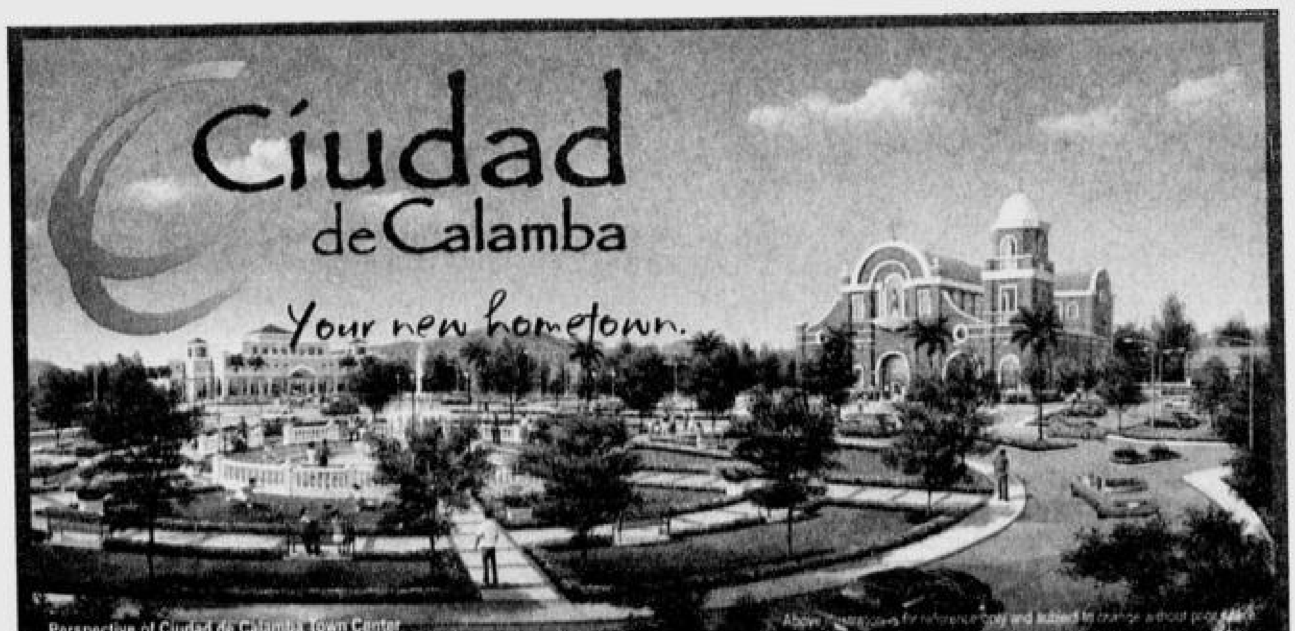
assets. First Gen plans to be a major participant in the privatization effort by buying power plants that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) will sell.

"Because the privatization plan has been deferred, it's not clear where [First Gen] will use the proceeds of the IPO," Cerdenia said.

First Gen sold 180.9 million common shares to raise P8.5 billion. Poor reception from investors overseas forced the company to cut its offer price to P47 a share from the initial indicative price range of P51 to P62.

"This created a psychological effect on the market," Cerdenia said.

First Gen is the biggest Filipino-owned power producer capable of generating up to 1,725 megawatts of electricity.



As a township development, the town center is at the community's core, wherein residents converge for business and leisure.

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(LEYECO II)
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INVITATION TO PRE-BID AND QUALIFY

The LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO II) would like to invite all suppliers to bid on the following items/ equipment:

1.) 10 units Distribution 50 KVA Transformer, CSP, Single bushing primary side, primary voltage 7620/13200Y, Grd., Secondary Voltage 120/240V, 60 Hz, Imp. 2.0%, no load loss = 110 watts, Full Load Loss = 515 watts, Brand new units.
2.) 20 units Distribution 50 KVA transformer, conventional type, double bushing primary side, same specification as to item no. 1.
3.) 15 units Distribution transformer, 75 KVA, conventional type, single phase double bushing primary side, primary voltage 7620/13200Y, Grd., Secondary Voltage 120/240V, 60 Hz, Imp. 2.0%, 3 bushing in secondary side, No load loss: 158 watts, full load loss: 856 watts.
4.) 10 units Distribution transformer, 100 KVA, conventional type, single phase double bushing primary side, primary voltage 7620/13200 Y, Grd., Secondary Voltage 120/240V, 60 Hz, Imp. 3.0%, 3 bushing on secondary side, no load loss: 158 watts, full load loss: 856 watts.

A Pre-Qualification Conference will be held on February 24, 2006, 2:00 in the afternoon at the LEYECO II new office building. Those who wish to join are required to bring the following documents during the said Conference:

1.) Letter of Intent and Company Profile
2.) Certification of availability of stocks of the above mentioned equipment.
3.) Original or Certified True Copy of Supplier's License and Accreditation
4.) Original or Certified True Copy of Business Permit
5.) Original or Certified True Copy of SEC Registration
6.) Original or Certified True Copy of latest Financial Statement
7.) Original or Certified True Copy of latest Income Tax Returns
8.) Original accreditation certification from Principal Supplier/Manufacturer

Bidding documents and technical specifications shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders. Time and venue of Opening of Bids shall be discussed during the Pre-Bidding Conference. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the electric cooperative. The decision of the electric cooperative is final and binding.

(Sgd.) ENGR. BARTOLOME P. COBACHA
Chairman

(PDI Feb. 11, 2006)

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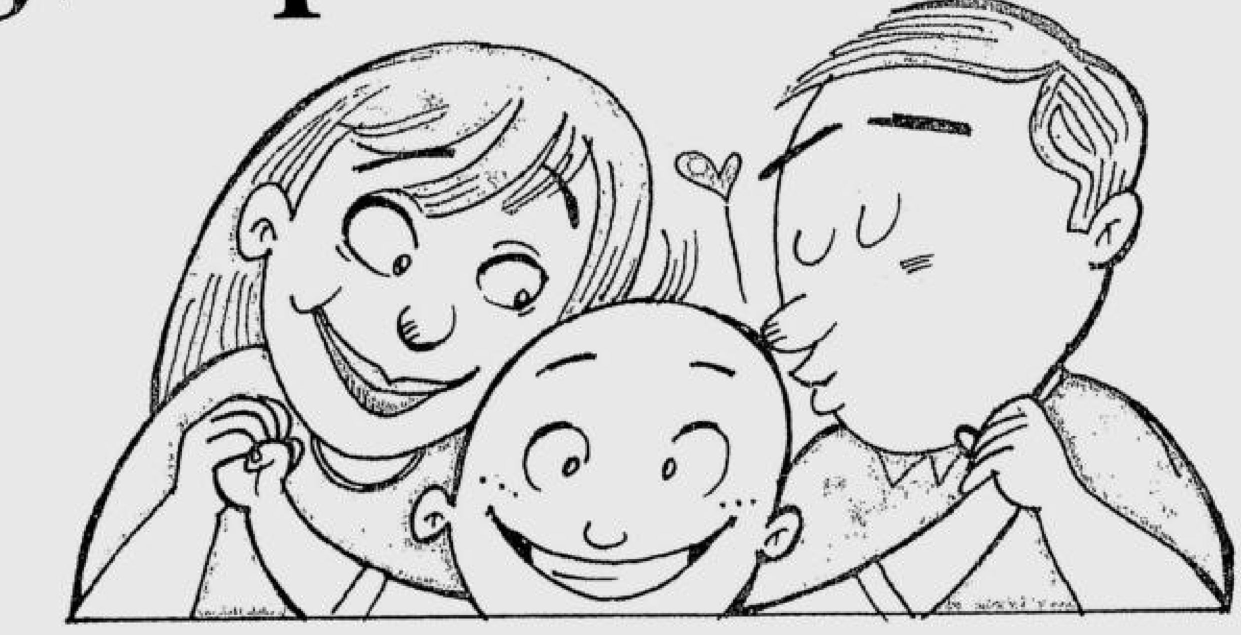
PROJECT: BRAVE KIDS

Helping Filipino kids survive cancer

By Charles E. Buban



SEVE AUGUSTO SABARRE Perez had just turned 3 in September 2005 when he was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), a rapidly progressing type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow that is most prevalent among children.

Since then, Seve has been meeting his doctors more often than his teachers and classmates, and has been to hospitals and laboratories more frequently than to malls and playgrounds.

Despite the situation, his parents say that Seve has shown tremendous courage, volunteering his hand during blood tests or intravenous insertion, offering what he thinks is the better part of his body to inject the needle, and not removing his facemask, despite the inconveniences of wearing one.

Moving forward

"One of the challenges facing the family of a child who has cancer is going on with everyday life. Moving forward is not an easy task when you find out your child has cancer or when your child is in the hospital. Yet we, as parents, are often awed by our brave children as they teach us about endurance, courage, hope, love, about life," said Paul Perez, who together with his wife Sigrid organized Project: Brave Kids last November.

The idea behind the project came about during one of Seve's visit to the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

"There we saw the plight of other young cancer patients whose families have no recourse but to rely on charity to continue their treatment," said Perez.

Easing the burden

One of the project's objectives is to extend assistance, through an endowment program, to cover medical expenses and to enlist volunteers who will be able to help ease the children's and their families' burden.

The organization currently supports more than 100 families.

"Cancer treatment is expensive and funds run out fast. No wonder, very few patients complete the treatment," said Perez, who works for a global communications agency.

According to him, the first round of treatment can go as high as P300,000.

Perez said Seve is responding positively to his chemotherapy, although they have already spent half a million pesos for the treatment.

3,500 children

According to the 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates, about 3,500 Filipino children will be diagnosed with cancer each year with ALL and retinoblastoma (eye cancer that most often occurs in children younger than 5), accounting for 40 percent to 60 percent of all cases.

"While advances in cancer diagnosis and treatment have now made long-term survival and cure possible, this is only enjoyed in developed countries. Here in the Philippines, our young cancer patients only have about 10 percent to 20 percent chance," said Dr. Julius Lecciones of the Philippine Society of Pediatric Oncology (PSPO).

He said an overwhelming two-thirds of these young patients seek medical attention only when their disease is too advanced, when cure is no longer possible or can only be achieved using very aggressive, and very expensive, treatments.

Multidisciplinary teams

Lecciones also said that although there are well-trained pediatric oncologists in the country, most are not supported by oncologic nurses, pediatric pathologists or laboratories.

There is also a lack of awareness on how to get help from foundations that may be able to provide financial support, Lecciones said.

To address these problems, Lecciones, representing the PSPO, organized the Philippine Alliance Against Childhood Cancer in partnership with Project: Brave Kids and pharmaceutical giant Sanofi-Aventis (Philippines).

Access to treatment

One of the alliance's first project, the Philippine CanServe, outlines a plan to expand access to the treatment and improvement of care by creating and training multidisciplinary teams, initially, in five strategic centers nationwide.

Each team is composed of pediatric oncologists, oncologic nurses, and pediatric pathologists as well as a laboratory.

The project bested six other local entries vying for the "My Child Matters," a program of Sanofi-Aventis and the International Union Against Cancer last year to provide financial support (700,000 euros in total) to 14 selected projects on the campaign against childhood cancers.

Philippine CanServe will receive 50,000 euros (about P3.1 million) each per year for an average duration of three years.

Shmoo happy together

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF," Tevye abruptly asks his wife Golde if she loves him. She replies, "Do I love you?/ … I've washed your clothes/ Cooked your meals, cleaned your house/ Given you children…/ After twenty-five years, why talk about love right now?"

This week's column comes from Andrew Murray, chair of the Molecular and Cell Biology department at Harvard University and Jun-Yi Leu, a postdoctoral fellow in his lab. Their paper, which appeared in the Feb. 7 issue of the journal Current Biology, talks about a population of yeast cells that learned to prefer to mate with complementary cells within the same population, rather than cells from another population.

Leu and Murray said this was proof that assortative mating ("when individuals of the same phenotype mate") could be learned; I prefer to think that their paper shows love could be learned.

Mating cycles

Leu and Murray grew 40 cultures of a strain of baker's yeast and removed a gene that had kept mutation rates low. The evolving (E) strain went through several mating cycles before being introduced to a reference (R) strain, which was thawed from a stock culture just prior to the meeting.

The researchers wanted to find out if it was possible to develop an assortative mating population; a group of a and alpha cells that would only mate with alpha and a cells within the same population regardless of the presence of other such cells from "unknown" populations.

Just as a reminder, a haploid yeast cell forms a diploid, or shmoo, when an a cell mates with an alpha cell, just like a man and a woman together create a baby.

Who to choose?

Leu and Murray combined the E and R populations in a 1E to 10R ratio. Picture a gathering where a lone girl (a cell from E strain) finds herself surrounded not just by the boy (alpha cell) who she had grown up with, but 10 other unknown and therefore exotic boys (alpha cells from the R strain). Will the girl choose the boy she knows or will she choose one of the others?

Regardless of the result, right after mating, the researchers induced a suicide gene that killed over 95 percent of the E and R hybrids and the R X R diploids. This left a small population of E and R hybrids that, along with the E X E diploids, formed the core of the new E population to which yet another newly thawed batch of R population was introduced.

Leu and Murray started with 40 cultures, 27 of which were eventually discarded due to severe mutations or contamination. They found that in 11 of the remaining 13 cultures, the E cells had gotten the hint and now showed a preference for mating with other E cells, rather than the R cells.

One could say that this experiment shows that those last E populations, alpha and a cells were now predestined for each other. Though some cells might stray, tempted by what the researchers suggested was the "sexier" R population, this "infidelity" was punished by the induction of the suicide gene, which removed most of the resulting shmoos.

(To paraphrase a Commandment: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighboring mating cell or else face utter destruction.")

2 scenarios

How does this all apply to Valentine's Day? The study can be applied to two possible scenarios:

1) If you are sure you've found "The One," and s/he is tempted to stray, this study suggests that s/he will eventually learn that one cannot fight fate.

2) If you are strangers thrown together in a relationship like a prearranged marriage, this study suggests that over time, a more solid foundation based on sheer presence, affinity and intimacy develops to form an attachment that can withstand temptation.

This brings us back to Tevye and Golde, and their song. "Do you love me?" Tevye persists in asking, noting that his parents had said that they would eventually learn to love each other. It seems they have. "It doesn't change a thing," they conclude, "but even so, after 25 years, it's nice to know."

The psychology of crowd aggression

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

WE ARE ALL SADDENED BY WHAT happened last weekend at the PhilSports Arena. What should have been a festive anniversary celebration of a TV show turned out to be a demonstration of how untempered group enthusiasm can turn into aggression and kill scores of people.

Emotions still run high up to this time, which could explain the hypercritical statements being issued by people who are supposed to be calm and restrained.

Investigators should realize that it is a lot easier to decide what went wrong in retrospect, when one already has the benefit of hindsight. But to decide what to do at the time the event was unfolding is an entirely different story.

Many times, doctors face the same dilemma as the organizers of this tragic event did. Sometimes, doctors are criticized for perceived lapses, particularly in emergency situations. But that is easy to say, when you analyze the case days after, in a relaxed situation, with all the data already on hand.

The doctor may have done his humanly best under the circumstances, but is sometimes still faulted for having overlooked a few things which, in his harassed judgment at the time of the emergency, were not among the most important things to do.

Turning into a mob

What went wrong that could have caused the tragedy?

Obviously, the crowd turned into a mob and mobs attempt to control through violence all those whom they are pitted against, especially if they believe they can overpower any resistance.

In the case of the TV show, the only forms of resistance the mob perceived were the steel gates and some security personnel, who probably did not project figures of authority. All that the mob needed was for one neurotic to agitate the group and make it commit aggressive and injurious acts such as what had happened.

A mob loses judgment of what is right and wrong.

"The radicals (in the group) struggle to change the form of control in such a way that their desires can be more readily satisfied," says sociologist Floyd Henry Allport.

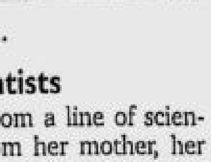
A mob's aggression is based on its perception of these factors: 1) the degree of thwarting pressure exercised by the party in control, 2) the arousal of inferiority conflict in the subjugated crowd, and 3) the waning of the strength of the upper power.

Had there been strong figures of authority (such as the police) much earlier on, and with regular announcements from the organizers to console those who will not be allowed inside the venue, things might not have turned out as they did.

Then again, it's easier to judge in retrospect.

World-class Filipina

EUREKA!



Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN JUNE 1990, 18-YEAR-OLD high school senior Mercedes "Tata" Escano Gorre vowed in her valedictory speech that she would find a cure for cancer. Her mother Lisa, a research chemist at the Hughes Laboratory in Malibu, California, had died of cancer a few months earlier. In August 2001, Tata's promise came true. Her paper from her doctoral dissertation on molecular mechanisms in chronic leukemia was published in the prestigious journal Science.

Tata's work aimed to thresh out what exactly was happening with the cancer drug called Gleevec, developed in 2000.

Gleevec seemed to work very well with leukemia patients, at first. However, the drug would seem to stop working. Why?

Protein mutation

Tata eventually found that certain leukemia patients have a mutation in a certain protein that would not make the drug work, and this discovery was the basis of her paper.

At first, other researchers were skeptical, but now her discovery is widely accepted, and Tata and her adviser (Dr. Charles Sawyers) have filed a patent claim for their discovery.

But Gleevec can work with other patients. It is relatively inexpensive (just one pill a day) and has little side effects (it targets the abnormal protein and nothing else). Currently, Tata and her team are working on alternative ways to help Gleevec-resistant patients, and other researchers have found that their study could be applied to other cancers besides leukemia.

Line of scientists

Tata hails from a line of scientists. Aside from her mother, her physicist uncle and my friend Dr. Gregory Tangonan used to work in Hughes Labs. As principal research Scientist at Quest Diagnostics Nichols Institute, a huge medical diagnostics firm in California, Tata heads a laboratory in the Hematology-Oncology R&D Department.

Tata's aunt, writer Paulynn Sicam, says there was only one other Filipina in Tata's graduate class at the University of California, Los Angeles. Tata did not let this matter, and at heart she remains a Pinay.

Making Pinoys proud

In an e-mail to her aunt, Tata says, "I am certain that whatever accomplishments I have achieved are largely due to my Filipino family and its strong emphasis on education, discipline and social responsibility. I only hope that I can continue to make them and other Filipinos proud."

For more information on Tata, e-mail psicam@cyberdyaryo.com.

Science humor

Another physicist friend, Alan Batongbacal, e-mailed this bit of science humor:

A math professor noticed that his kitchen sink broke down. He called a plumber. The plumber came the next day, sealed a few screws and everything was working as before. The professor was delighted.

However, when the plumber gave him the bill a minute later, he was shocked. "This is one third of my monthly salary!" he yelled.

The plumber consoled him, "I understand. Why don't you come to our company and apply as a plumber? You will earn three times as much as a professor. But remember, when you apply, tell them that you completed only grade school. They don't like educated people."

The professor became a plumber, and his salary went up significantly. One day, the boss decided that every plumber has to go to evening classes to complete high school.

The first class was math. The teacher asked for the formula for the area of a circle. The professor went to the board but realized he forgot the formula.

So he started to reason it out and soon filled the board with integrals, differentials and other advanced formulas to derive the formula. Then he got "negative pi times r squared." He didn't like the negative, so he started all over again. No matter how many times he tried, he always got a negative.

He was frustrated and looked helplessly at his classmates. Then all the plumbers whispered, "Switch the limits of the integral!!"

For more science humor, go to http://ask.slashdot.org/askslashdot/04/03/03/2125257.shtml.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GEORGE ANGELO G. PADOLINA has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs Elizabeth, George John & Joshua John, all surnamed Padolina under Doc#476, Page#97, Book#XXXII, Series of 2006 before Atty. Benjamin Mata of Makati City.
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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Resins Incorporated stock certificate no. NV 1003 for 1,355 shares issued to Carlos S. Rufino was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
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(PDI–Feb. 11, 2006)

Land conversion, realty service rules up at NREA meeting

REAL ESTATE ISSUES ON LAND CONVERSION, and proposed realty service professionalization rules topbill the topics of the annual post-Valentine business meeting and fellowship of the National Real Estate Association starting at 6:30 p. m., on Feb. 21 (Tues.) at the Gabaldon Hall, Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Jose V. Manalad, NREA president, said that the resource speakers are Agrarian Reform Sec. Nasser C. Pangandaman, who will talk on "Industry Concerns on Land Conversion" and Chairperson Leonor Tripon-Rosero of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), who will take up the "PRC-proposed Guidelines in the Professionalization of the Real Estate Service Industry." During its fellowship portion, NREA will also honor its 2005 Ten Most Outstanding Members of NREA, the Most Outstanding Chapter, and the Best Chapter President, who will be presented Awards of Recognition for their invaluable service to the real estate industry and the association. On the other hand, NREA EVP Alejandro S. Mañalac, chairman of the business meeting and fellowships, said that chairman Carlito S. Puno of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) will be the main presentor of the awards, with Joseph Peter S. Sison, president of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, as co-presentor. New members will also be inducted during the affair. Non-members may attend by calling the Secretariat at tels. 913-4463 and 912-3492.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

RODRIGO C. GUTIERREZ
"Mang Boy"

#88 11th St., 11th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City
April 21, 1941 – February 4, 2006
Interment: Feb. 11, 2006 Saturday
9:00 AM – Eternal Garden Caloocan City

Wish to express our deepest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers; attended vigils; sent flowers and letters of sympathy; gave donations; spent precious time with us and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us during time of bereavement.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

ROBERTO P. ENRIQUEZ
Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 27, 2005 and was cremated on December 31 in Seattle, USA at the age of 76.

His ashes are at the Barangay Hall, 3060 Interior 4, Cordillera St., Bacood, Sta. Mesa. A 1:00 p.m. Mass will be held at Loreto Church, Sampaloc on February 12.

Judge DOMINGO O. LUCENARIO, SR.

Former Law Professor and Bar Reviewer
Farmer and Fisherman

Passed away on February 4, 2006 at the age of 76.

His loving wife, **Loreto**; children **Yasmin & Reggie, Danton & Flor, Debra & Jun, Doy & Nida, Dina, Darrow, Milo & Anne**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City. Funeral Mass will be today, February 11, 2006 at 1:30p.m. at Sta. Rita Church. Interment will follow at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Novaliches immediately after the Mass.

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Investments up 140.5% in Nov. 2005

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS in the Philippines surged 140.5 percent in November 2005 to $178 million as investors took advantage of a more favorable macroeconomic environment, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported Friday.

This brought total net FDI inflow in the first 11 months of 2005 to $1.1 billion, 70 percent higher compared to $624 million recorded during the same period in 2004.

The BSP attributed the growth in FDI to increased equity capital placements of $1.2 billion during the period.

This was due in part to favorable corporate earnings reports, improved fiscal position, respectable economic growth and easing inflation rate.

Foreign investors poured equity mainly in the manufacturing and real estate sectors, with major investments coming from the United States and Hong Kong.

As opposed to portfolio inflows, which are also called "hot money" due to their volatile nature, FDI flows represent long-term investments in capital and labor intensive firms, such as those spent in building new factories, real estate developments, power plants and mining ventures.

Aside from the strong inflow of portfolio investments during the period, the improved FDI flow helped strengthen the peso against the US dollar.

The FDI record was based on the country's balance of payments as tabulated by the BSP, measuring actual flows that came in during the reference period as opposed to mere investment pledges.

For this year, the BSP expects the Philippines to lure $940 million in net FDIs, matching the strong performance of 2005.

Expected beneficiaries include the power, manufacturing and telecommunications sectors.

The expected privatization of power generating plants owned by the government, as well as the Supreme Court's ruling which favored the entry of foreign investors in the mining sector, were also seen attracting more FDI flows.

Business process outsourcing is likewise a booming industry in the Philippines, with big multinational corporations shifting some of their backroom operations, such as call center requirements, to the country to take advantage of its English-speaking workforce.

SB Corp. released ₱3.25B in 2005

By Christine A. Gaylican

SMALL BUSINESS Corp. (SB Corp.) has approved some P3.25 billion in loans in 2005 that benefited small and medium entrepreneurs.

SB Corp.'s retail lending programs extended some P563 million in loans to exporters, franchisees, domestic manufacturers, IT service providers, start-up entrepreneurs and microentrepreneurs, according to Luna C. David, SB Corp. vice president for financing and guarantees sector.

David, however, admitted that the disbursement last year fell short of its target for 2005 as the company tightened its rules on evaluating borrowers' qualifications.

"For the SME Force Program, we have lent some P4.4 million to new franchisees during the period," she said.

This facility is intended for the start-up or expansion of a franchise outlet and a commissary support system for the franchising operations.

Under the program, SB Corp. partners with domestic or foreign franchise firms with at least three years of operation in franchising.

The franchise firm guarantees at least 50 percent of the franchisees' loan to SB Corp.

The franchisee loan ranges from P200,000 to a maximum of P5 million.

The company's SME wholesale lending and guarantees program coursed through accredited conduit banks, cooperatives and nongovernment organizations reached P2.5 billion and P229 million, respectively.

In the wholesale lending program, Planters Development Bank remained its strongest partner in extending loans to SMEs.

Planters was followed by the Bank of Commerce, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Asiatrust Bank, Anchor Savings Bank, Equitable-PCI Bank, China Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines.

SB Corp., an agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is tasked to provide wholesale loans for bankable SMEs.

Considered the backbone of the Philippine economy, the SME sector comprises about 99.6 percent of all registered firms nationwide.

The sector employs 69.9 percent of the country's labor force, and contributes 32 percent to the economy.

DOE asks energy firms to list shares on PSE

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is calling on all energy firms to follow the example of Lopez-led First Gen Corp., which has just concluded the listing of 180.9 million shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"Energy is everyone's business. Listing on the stock market like what First Gen did will definitely provide a broader base of ownership in the sector and, as a whole, will provide impetus for good governance in the energy sector," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement.

He said going public would not only help strengthen private sector participation in the energy sector, but also enable the government to meet the country's growing energy needs.

The DOE, for its part, was also trying to create a better policy environment for the energy sector, he said, as this would entice investors to infuse much needed capital into the industry.

A better policy environment, which was expected to usher in new investors, would also help the government reach its goal of eventually providing cheaper power to consumers, he said.

More new investors in the energy sector would also mean more new jobs, he added.

First Gen's IPO is the year's first equity offering.

The company, by offering 180.9 million shares at P47 a share, expects to raise as much as $180 million or P9.4 billion.

Proceeds from the offer will be used to upgrade the firm's existing facilities, as well as put in new generating capacity, either though expansion of existing plants or construction of new power generation facilities.

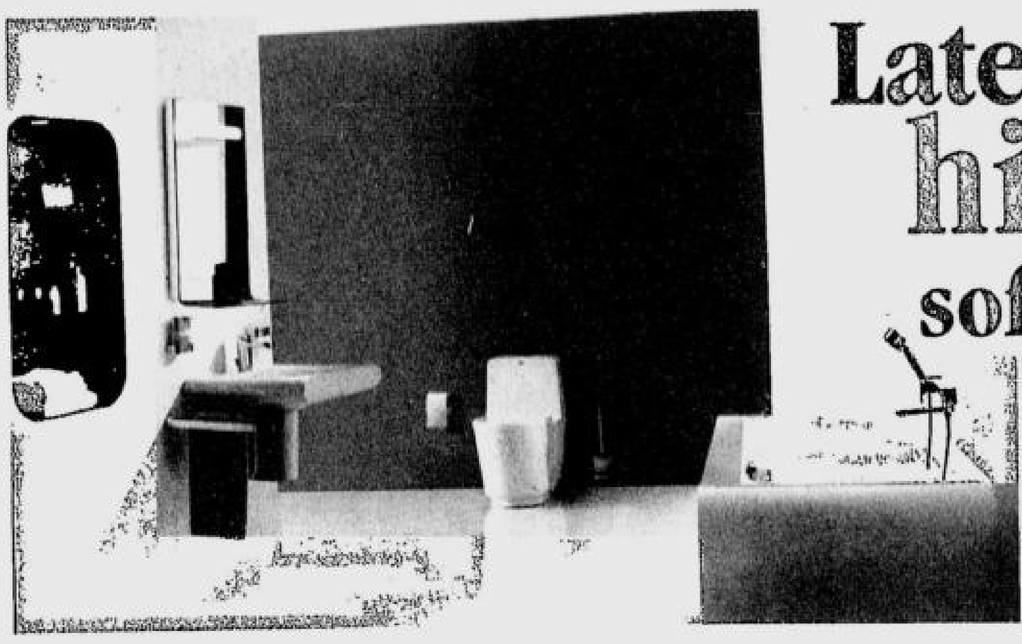
First Gen is the country's largest Filipino-owned and controlled independent power producer, with an installed capacity of 1,727 megawatts (MW).

Two of its power plants, the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo of First Gas Power Corp., provided the anchor load in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project.

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Latest bathroom designs highlight soft minimalism, vertical lines



MOMENTS suites join fluent surfaces and soft edges with geometrical form.

VERTICAL straight lines and pure shapes (like ellipses) give Expression Suites visual comfort.

By Charles E. Buban

ONE OF MINIMALISM'S important attributes is to be able to maximize any available space and while favoring simple lines, it should not leave out a seductive curve or two in its design.

Thus, walls, floors, ceilings and any other surfaces, whether vertical (such as the shower enclosure) or horizontal (such as sinks and their supporting counters), must be clean, crisp and as uninterrupted as possible.

Following this philosophy, one bathroom fixtures and fittings manufacturer started offering in recent years space-saving and style-enhancing designs such as sleek bathroom fittings and fixtures.

Very evident

"This concept of minimalism is indeed very evident in the two new bathroom concepts that we recently unveiled in the Philippines: the Moments Suites and Expression Suites," said American Standard Philippines country manager Felino Bernardo.

These two bathroom concepts beef up what the company already offers in the Philippines—the Marc Newson Suites, Acacia Suites and Tonic Suites.

"All these design suites run consistent with American Standard's goal of providing consumers with total bathroom solutions," Bernardo said.

One work of art

A creation of multiawarded German design duo Achim Pohl and Tomas Fiegl, the Moments Suites was created in the spirit of "one work of art" applied to ceramics, furniture, fittings, accessories and acrylics.

"The geometrical shape joins fluent surfaces and soft edges to give Moments Suites its sensual character and its harmony and balance. Instead of creating individual standout elements, Moments Suites join fluent surfaces and soft edges with pure geometrical form, resulting in an integrated soft minimalist look characterized by sensual character, harmony, balance and simplicity," Bernardo explained.

In a recent speech, Richard Ward, American Standard (Asia-Pacific) VP & GM for Bath and Kitchen, said the company saw that design trends are evolving especially among Asian consumers. "There's a movement from minimalism to soft minimalism, that's why we incorporated soft sweeping curves with simple straight lines for this new suite," he said.

Vertical lines

Expression uses vertical straight lines and pure shape like ellipses to achieve a romantic and visual comfort for the bathroom.

Depending on the designer's or homeowner's additional inputs, this bathroom concept is flexible enough to bring an outcome that could be classic and warm, strongly contemporary, or high tech in taste.

While the more feminine and romantic Expression Suites come in one-piece, round bowl lava, rectangular bowl lava, semi-ped lava, ped lava, and Celia full-line fitting, the Moments Suites come in one-piece, semi-ped lava, ped lava, countertop lava, semi-counter lava, tub, full-line fitting, and furniture.

Said Ward: "American Standard goes beyond merely offering trendy design. We also ensure customer health and safety in our products as well. These newly introduced products also carry the company's patented Family Health technology that employs antibacterial glaze on our products' ceramics, tub and toilet seats and covers that effectively kills E. Coli, staph as well as other harmful bacteria, which can cause diarrhea, infection, bad odor and even skin disease."

Resistant to scrubbing and frequent use, Bernardo added that this antibacterial technology stays effective throughout the entire life cycle of the product.

Family Health technology also extends to the faucets of both Moments and Expression Suites, which have lesser lead content level at 50 percent lower than the US government standard.

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Eco-tourism vs traditional tourism

MANY PEOPLE USE THE TERM eco-tourism to market and promote tourism related to nature. The term is overused and in some cases cleverly exploited by some operators to highlight tourism that is supposedly sensitive to the environment and to conservation efforts.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

Eco-tourism basically means ecological tourism, which has both environmental and social implications. Conceived in the late 1980s, the term eco-tourism came of age in 2002 when the United Nations celebrated the "International Year of Eco-tourism." Today eco-tourism is growing at a rapid pace of 10 to 30 percent per year. Eco-tourism today accounts for one in every five tourists worldwide.

Eco-tourism

The International Eco-tourism Society defines Eco-tourism as "responsible travel to natural areas, which conserves the environment and sustains the well-being of local people."

Eco-tourism gives emphasis to local cultures and is defined as travel to destinations where biodiversity and cultural heritage are the main attractions.

For example, in Malaysia, home of the world's oldest forests, eco-tourism focuses on lush tropical rainforest and wildlife among other sites. In Africa, prime destinations are jungle, rainforests and animal preserves. It is an excellent place for eco-tourism particularly with its abundant wildlife.

There are 3 basic elements of eco-tourism:

1. It promotes conservation measures. It educates the guests about the local environmental and conservation issues.
2. It encourages meaningful community involvement of local people in the area of tourism activity.
3. It is profitable and can sustain itself. It also helps improve the livelihoods of poor people in rural environments.

Eco-tourism includes efforts to reduce the adverse effects of traditional tourism on the natural environment. It also promotes recycling, energy efficiency and the efficient use and reuse of water.

Eco-tourism vs traditional tourism

Eco-tourism is smaller in scale than traditional tourism. It also has limited ecological and social impacts.

Eco-tourism requires moderate to low investment to fund infrastructure development based on the needs of the site.

The development goals for eco-tourism are geared toward local communities rather than national objectives.

Eco-tourism limits the number of guests who visit natural sites as compared to traditional tourism. This is what planners call the "physical carrying capacity." The carrying capacity is the quantity of visitors that can be accommodated within a site while maintaining a high degree of satisfaction for guests and impacts on resources.

Activities for eco-tourism such as wildlife watching and nature photography are markedly different from traditional tourism activities like fishing and hunting or four-wheel-drive safari in rainforests and tours in air-conditioned buses.

Eco-tourism gives emphasis to natural surroundings first, then man-made facilities next. This is the reason buildings and structures within the site should be designed along green architecture principles to minimize their impact on the site. This could mean shelters with trail paths built on stilts to reduce the size of the building footprint and reduce damage to the existing ground cover. (Building footprint means the floor area of the building directly in contact with the ground.) In site development, this means adopting cluster type of development to maintain existing open spaces.

Harmony between the structures and the natural surroundings are given utmost importance not only in its appearance but also in the type of materials used. Local or indigenous materials and architectural style therefore are highly preferred.

Eco-tour resources

Eco-tour resources are natural, cultural, or historical attractions in a given area. These are the main eco-tourism product development.

Attractions can be places, objects, events and people's unique way of life. Natural attractions include beaches, coral reefs, mangroves, rivers and waterfalls, caves, mountains and cliffs, forests and lakes.

ECOTOURISM is fast growing as tourists venture into natural and scenic places such as rainforests or mountains for an exciting and educational trip. Shown is a raised wooden hiking trail designed to minimize the impact of tourists visiting a rainforest.

VISIT BRUNEI TRAVEL BROCHURE

Cultural and historical attractions include churches, artifacts, festivals, rites and rituals, traditional production, such as fishing, woodcarving and brass making, as well as annual competitions like carabao or water buffalo races.

A good product

Eco-tourism develops community-based enterprises by providing a good income source for a group of community owners and people providing services. As tourism grows other related products and activities are developed such as handicrafts, biking, bed and breakfast, and camping facilities.

When local people realize the economic benefits derived from eco-tourism, they are more likely to protect the natural resources on which their livelihood depends.

Criticisms vs eco-tourism

Despite the many environmental and economic benefits of eco-tourism, critics are quick to point out several of its inadequacies. One criticism against eco-tourism is that some of the visitors' destinations are highly sensitive to environmental impact and intrusion by humans and can be destroyed even by careful visitors.

Other criticisms involve the effect of eco-tourism on local wild animals. Many studies have shown that animals get stressed when people are around. This close proximity to humans could cause an increase in the animals' heart rate and metabolism.

Some critics claim that when forests are conserved the lives of local people are adversely affected. This is especially true for poor people in areas where they rely on forest resources for lumber and wildlife for their livelihood and sustenance.

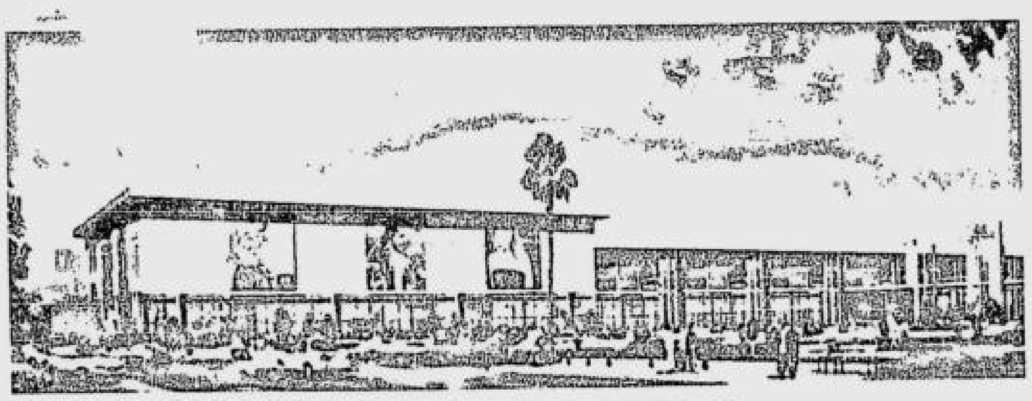
If done right, it can work

Obviously, eco-tourism cannot be the answer to the problems that plague the more traditional forms of mass tourism. However, through responsible eco-tourism based on good planning and development, it can serve the needs of a very specific group of visitors to natural sites. When eco-tourism is done right, it can work.

* * *

The Green Architecture Movement (GAM) of the United Architects of the Philippines is holding its third Green Forum on March 11 at the Milky Way Restaurant on Pasay Road, corner Paseo de Roxas Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Titled "Sustainable Housing Development and Management," the forum aims to provide information on the current issues on housing design, implementation and management. Speakers are engineer David Consunji of the notable DMCI Construction, planner architect Nathaniel Von Einsedel, Edgard Guevara and architect Rachelle Navarro-Astrand of Sweden. For inquiries, please call the UAP-GAM headquarters or Racquel Oreña at 412-6374.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.



SM CITY Sta. Rosa, the 23rd SM supermall, will be open on Feb. 17.

SM City Santa Rosa opens Feb. 17

SM CITY SANTA ROSA WILL BRING shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to Laguna when it open its doors to the public on Feb. 17.

Located on a 170,740 square meter property in Barrio Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, SM Prime's 23rd supermall has two levels and a floor area of 88,000 square meters. It will serve customers in Laguna and neighboring provinces, making it part of Santa Rosa's dynamism as an investment hub, tourism and education center as well as upwardly mobile residential community.

Major anchors

The mall's major anchors are the trendsetting and innovative SM Department Store and SM supermarket as wellas retail outlets like home stores, toy stores, appliance centers, fashion boutiques, book stores, novelty shops, sports stores and jewelry shops that add to the shopping excitement.

It will also good food...fast at the SM Food Court as well as well-known international and local fast-food chains plus specialty restaurants. It will have four state of the art cinemas, an entertainment plaza and 3,351 parking slots.

SM City Santa Rosa's design will be unlike any other SM mall. It will include a new approach to advertising signages and banner designs, outdoor dining area along the arcade and louvered panels.

The design team includes Edge Interior, design architect; W. V. Coscolluela and Associates, architect of record; DA Abcede and Associates, project manager; and new Golden City Builders, general contractor.

MAHOGANY PLACE MODEL UNITS READY FOR VIEWING

DMCI Homes, the real estate business unit of construction giant D. M. Consunji Inc., has announced that model units of Mahogany Place's three designer model houses are now ready for viewing. Located adjacent to the Global City and near the Makati and Ortigas business districts, the place exhibits the grandeur of the old Manila without the high price tag. It incorporates the best of city living with top-class amenities such as a playground, jogging oaths, swimming pool, a fitness gym, covered basketball and badminton courts, garden gazebos and KTV room. For inquiries, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

Value engineering spawns new Pinoy housing system

MANY MAY NOT EVEN HAVE HEARD of "value engineering" at all, but it's in this new field of discipline where a structural engineer has suddenly found himself, in his search for solutions to the rising prices of conventional housing.

The search brought engineer Bow C. Moreno to the tedious process of sorting out the prices of construction materials in various combinations and assessing their total optimum value to a person building his own house at the least possible time and cost.

That process is what Moreno calls "value engineering," through which he has succeeded in designing a system that can build and finish a 72-square-meter, 24-foot-high, two-story townhouse with spacious attic in just 12 days and for only P680,000.

BOW system

Calling it a "Built to Order Web" (BOW) system, Moreno is applying it in the construction of two rows of five-door townhouses with such dimensions in a commercial area on Gil Fernando Avenue in Marikina City.

Moreno is building the 10 townhomes within 120 days (or 12 days per unit) using the BOW system for the GMA-7 Employees Multipurpose Cooperative, whose housing project is envisioned to reach a total of 250 units in and around Metro Manila.

"I won the project because my BOW system offered the highest value for the client's money," Moreno says referring to GMA-7 Coop's housing requirements.

The BOW system uses readily available lightweight materials with strength equivalent to or more than the conventional ones. These materials include 3x3-inch angular bars welded together and joined by round steel bars to form 3x6-inch channels that serve as columns and beams, which are easily and swiftly assembled to constitute the skeletal frame of the house.

Eliminating need for topping

Concrete mix is then poured onto the channels and the flooring of the first and second floors, with rough finish for the first for ceramic tiling and straight finish for the second for vinyl, thus eliminating the need for topping.

The now concrete framework is then clad with M2 panels—consisting of corrugated Styrofoam boards sandwiched by an interconnected pair of galvanized wire mesh—which are plastered with cement using pressurized bucket spray for strong, efficient bonding. Soon the roof is installed on steel purlins and the gutter on HardiFlex Senepa fascia board, thus leaving only the stairs, partitions and ceiling still unfinished.

The stairs and toilet/bathroom are done the conventional way, but for the partitions, Moreno uses HardiFlex fiber cement boards, and for the ceiling HardiFlex Lite fiber cement board. "These materials are durable and almost low-maintenance-free, simple and quick to install, and resistant to damage from impact, fire, termites, water and severe weather conditions, while providing heat insulation to the house. And unlike all other locally produced fiber cement boards, HardiFlex does not contain carcinogenic chrysotile asbestos fiber or abestos that can endanger the health of my workers and clients," Moreno says.

Optimum value to end-user

Being a structural engineer, Moreno is so exacting on the dimensions and tenacity of his materials that he cannot use wood, gypsum, or strongboards for his BOW system.

"With lumber and plywood, you'll only be cheated when it comes to thickness and these materials are easily gutted by fire, eaten by termites, destroyed by water, and consumes a lot of paint, which eventually flakes away," Moreno explains.

"Gypsum, on the other hand, is easily damaged by water and impact, while strongboards (magnesium oxide) are very laborious to install and easily break at the edges, with the patching compound *(masilya)* cracking in between boards.

"You see, the secret of the BOW system is in the fast, efficient and economical construction of a light but very durable house from improvisation and right combination of materials that provide optimum value to the end-user at the least cost," Moreno adds.

More information on the system can be obtained from value engineering specialist Bow C. Moreno Construction (tel. 826-7872, 820-8093, or e-mail bowcmoreno@yahoo.com).

The BOW system has also been applied in other structures, including the Ann Arbor Montessori School in BF Homes, Parañaque City.

Country living at incredibly affordable price

PALMA REAL RESIDENTIAL ESTATES, a suburban development in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, now offers house and lot packages.

Now available for viewing are three house and lot model units, each uniquely designed to meet the discerning taste of homebuyers.

Buyers may choose from Crete, San Marino and Malta model units featuring two-story, single-detached house with lot areas ranging from 120 to 209 square meters.

Palma Real, a joint-venture project between Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. (SLRDI) and Crown Central Properties Corp., has a country clubhouse that offers first-class leisure amenities amid the commanding view of the panoramic Mount Makiling.

Sports facilities include swimming pool, tennis court, basketball court and skating rink.

To inquire about country living at incredibly affordable prices and with flexible payment terms, call Orchard Property Marketing Corp., SLRDI's exclusive marketing network, at (632) 560-1124 or visit www.orchardproperty.com.ph. Limited house and lot packages available.

Ayala Land revs up property purchase with Homestarter Bond

AYALA Land and BPI Capital Corp. executives pore over marketing materials for Ayala Land Homestarter Bond during its launch recently. From left are Rex A. Mendoza, senior vice president of Ayala Land corporate sales and marketing group; Bonifacio Banzon, BPICC vice president; Marissa Punsalan, BPICC vice president; and Augusto Bengzon, Ayala Land treasurer.

AYALA LAND, THE COUNTRY'S MOST TRUSTed real estate company, presents the property market another pioneering initiative to enable more Filipinos acquire quality homes in safe, secure and well-managed communities.

It launches the Ayala Land Homestarter Bond to allow prospective customers to build-up funds for down payment covering homes offered by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries catering to the middle-range market.

Ayala Land studies indicate that while many prospective buyers have the capacity to cover monthly payments for home loans, many find difficulty in raising the initial down payment.

In cooperation with BPI Capital Corp., Ayala Land issues Homestarter Bonds for customers who will invest P5,000 to P25,000 a month over a period of three years, according to Augusto Bengzon, Ayala Land vice president for Treasury. He adds that the funds built under the program will earn a noncompounding interest of five percent a year payable at the end of three years.

Bonus credit

And since the Homestarter Bond is mainly aimed at prompting customers to save up for their Ayala Land dream homes, Ayala Land further provides a bonus credit of 10 percent on the total principal invested. This 10 percent bonus is added on to a client's down payment of the Ayala Land property of his choice. Bengzon says those interested in subscribing to the Ayala Land Homestarter Bonds are encouraged to visit any BPI branch nationwide.

Bondholders will periodically receive informational materials on the different projects offered by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries—Community Innovations (CI) which develops projects that are complementary to the lifestyle of urban professionals, and Avida (formerly LPHI) which provides affordable homes and condominiums in strategically located areas nationwide.

Homestarter Bond holders are also most welcome to purchase Ayala Land homes even midway the three-year period.

Funds for down payments

Rex Mendoza, senior vice president for Corporate Sales and Marketing says that the Homestarter Bond program "hits the nail on the head" as it addresses the need of many prospective customers for assistance in building up funds for down payments.

"Three years hence, or even earlier, we look forward to serving the Filipinos who are enabled by this program to realize their aspirations for quality homes in environments that uplift their family, as well as individual lives," Mendoza says.

For more information, call BPI Capital Corp. at 845-5695 to 98.

Prestigious awards for RP's top 10 architecture firms

A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM ASIA'S construction information provider will be conferred on the Philippines' top 10 architecture firms on Feb. 24 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

This annual BCI Asia Top 10 Award will honor the Philippines' 10 commercially most significant architecture firms with the best practices and largest scope of operations.

Similar events will be held in seven other Asian countries—China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, according to BCI Asia chair and chief executive officer Dr. Matthias Krups.

International overview

"The BCI Asia Top 10 was conceived to provide an international overview of architecture firms designing the most significant body of structures in eight regional markets of Asia. The program promotes the architectural profession and, more important, generates international publicity for architects in Asia," Krups explained.

The exclusive awarding ceremonies will include international architectural keynote speakers and the launch of FuturArc, BCI Asia's exciting journal on new architecture.

FuturArc's first edition will contain an important discussion of sustainable building as well as trends in Asian architecture for recreation.

A complimentary copy of FuturArc's inaugural edition and a media kit with a CD of print-ready images of the architects' future buildings will be given to the awardees and guests.

They will also receive a complimentary edition of the Architecture@07 yearbook on future architecture in Southeast Asia and China.

Construction info provider

In the Philippines, BCI Asia is the first and only provider of construction information on an industry-wide, nationwide and regionwide bases. This gives its subscribers an effective access to trade and investment prospects, new technologies, hard-to-find products and services, and vast opportunities for construction projects, supply contracts and all the answers for specific requirements in making sound corporate and procurement decisions.

According to country manager Apple Patricio, BCI Asia's research staff interview more than 100,000 architects, developers and engineers in compiling tens of thousands of detailed reports on billions of dollars worth of future buildings and construction projects.

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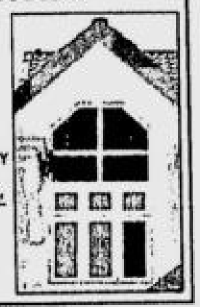

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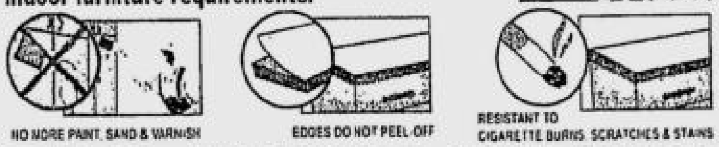
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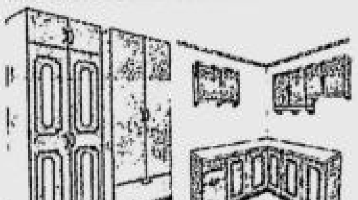

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Unless otherwise indicated in the Instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, DFP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

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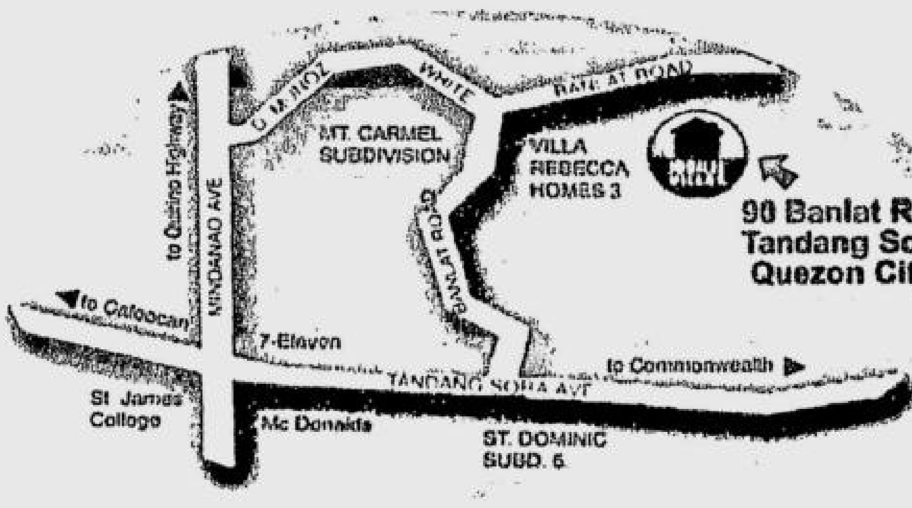

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AT DAY'S end, the porch becomes a welcoming nook for relaxation.

Brittany offers gracious living at Georgia Club

DESIGNED for the exclusive life, the 30-hectare Georgia Club features homes of Classic Southern architecture and details, as well as a wide porch shaded by mature trees.

THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE STATE of Georgia in the United States includes a genteel way of life characteristic of the privileged aristocracy who owned plantations in the American South. Such a lifestyle conjures up images of decorous, well-mannered society, stately plantation residences, tree-lined lanes and white picket fences, and elaborate celebrations among extended circles of family, kin and friends.

Drawing on the appeal of such a way of life as it existed in the South before the American Civil War, maverick high-end property developer Brittany Corp., guided by the grand vision of the Quiros family of Sta. Rosa, adds to its distinctive roster of master-planned, themed communities, the exclusive Georgia Club, an enclave initially spanning 30 hectares in a highly convenient location in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Theme inspiration

Its theme inspiration from the American South sets Georgia Club apart from other subdivisions in Sta. Rosa. As in the ballad "Georgia On My Mind," Brittany brings to life a cherished, dreamed-of lifestyle with a neighborly ambiance and an upper-crust milieu. As a community of privileged residents, Georgia Club is designed for the exclusive life, in which one lives among one's own peers.

The residences of Georgia Club evoke the charm of Classic Southern architecture with beige and cream color schemes, doors with brass knockers, and brightly colored window shutters—standard features for a distinguished look. A prominent feature is a wide porch in every residence, whether up front or out in back, a focal point for many a delightful tête-a-tête among family members and friends.

Georgia Club residences are designed with carports positioned on the side or in the rear, to allow wide pedestrian walks. Walkways and jogging paths connect to quaint, green "nodes" with fountains, gazebos, pocket gardens and swings, shaded by mature Acacia trees.

The community is offering custom home sites shaped according to Brittany's exclusive Widelot concept, which makes each constructed residence visually larger, due to a wide frontage.

Only a 25-minute drive from Alabang via the newly opened Asia Brewery Greenfield Exit, the location of Georgia Club enables residents to avoid the traffic from industrialized areas of Laguna. An alternative route via the South Luzon Expressway and Sta. Rosa Interchange likewise gives access to the Alabang business district.

High quality education

Children are assured of a high quality education with schools located within the area such as De La Salle, St. Scholastica, Don Bosco and the Ateneo Graduate School. They can acquire a pre-school and primary education at the Acacia School, a primary and secondary education at Woodrose, or a university degree at the 45-hectare Sta. Rosa campus of the University of Sto. Tomas, which is already under construction.

The new UST campus will boast a scenic view of Mt. Makiling, with a refreshing environment more conducive to learning, and a teaching hospital. Or students can attend schools such as Zobel, San Beda and Southridge in Alabang.

Leisure activities

Georgia Club also allows residents the enjoyment of leisure activities at neighboring premier golf courses and country clubs (such as the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club, Canlubang Golf and Country Club, and The Country Club just a stone's throw away), relaxation in nearby Tagaytay, or weekend breaks on the beaches of Batangas.

With its Deep South inspiration, Georgia Club is a fresh example of a distinctively themed, carefully master-planned, up-market community that is maverick Brittany Corp.'s signature, providing a unique "lifescape" for gracious, luxurious and neighborly living.

Georgia Club will be formally launched tomorrow from 10 a.m. onward. For exclusive launch invitations and property previews, call Brittany at 850-2868 and 842-1252, or visit www.brittany-georgiaclub.com.ph on the web.

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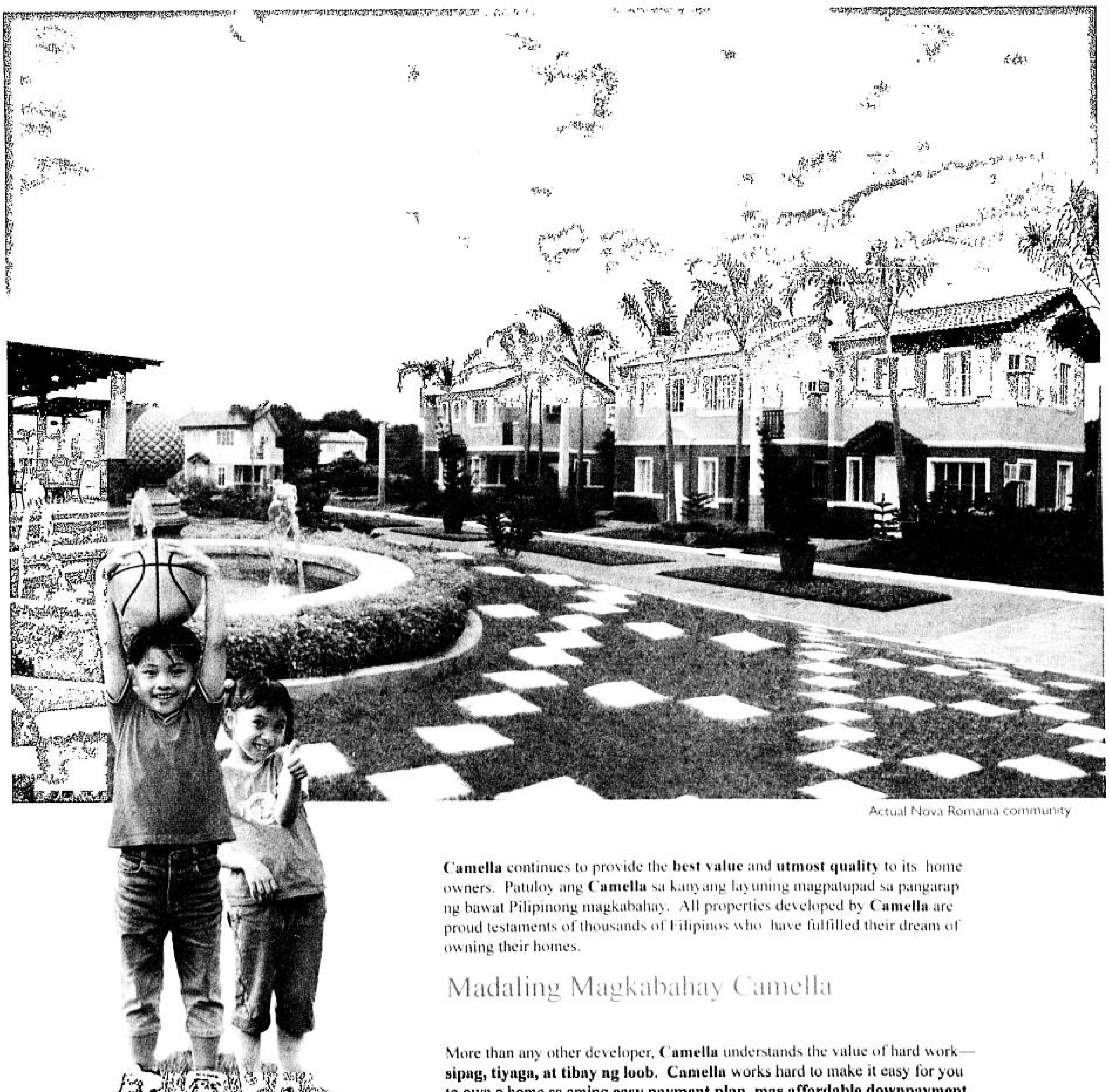

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Super! Countdown
3 days 'til Bling Day
Style . urban living

Court

Go bare back with **Brokeback Mountain** page C2

Angelique Villaraza chronicles the **Modern Mistress** page C2

We love **Kitchie Nadal** in our page E2 Super! Comics

The Adventures of Cupid page D1

Produced by TIM YAP
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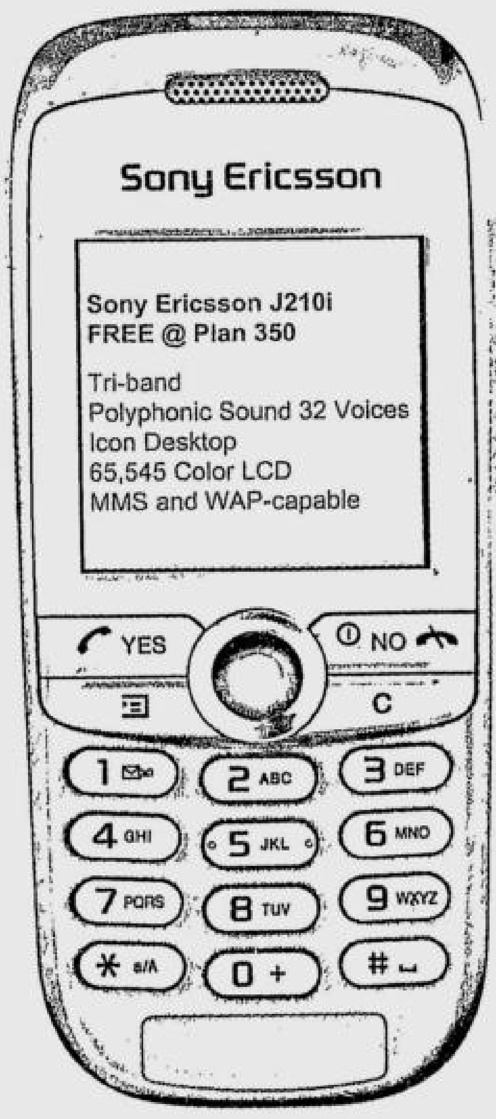
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THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM …

The Modern Mistress

By Anqelique Villaraza

MADAME DE POMPADOUR, la comtesse de Castiglione, Celeste Mogador, Coco Chanel, Sarah Bernhardt, Marie Duplessis … the world's greatest courtesans that had kings and world leaders clawing at their feet.

Soon after their liaison began, King Loius XV presented Madam de Pompadour with an estate, one of several she was to receive in her lifetime, including the mansion known as the Palais Elysee, now the home of French presidents. Le comte de Stakelberg bought Marie Duplessis a splendid coach, a team of the finest horses, a monthly allotment for a maid and cook, and a fashionable apartment on the boulevard Madeleine.

MOD MISS. She is confident with her body, independent in spirit, bold in nature, stunningly sexy and powerful.

JAY TABLANTE

Their wardrobes, made from the most luxurious fabrics and by celebrated designers like Charles Worthington and Paul Poiret, were envied by respectable and titled women who copied the styles they wore. During the Belle Epoch in Paris, among the wealthy playboys, aristocrats and businessmen who belonged to the exclusive Jockey Club, it was considered de rigueur to keep a courtesan—so much so that even homosexual men felt they had to do it for show.

"I was able to start a high fashion shop because two gentlemen were outbidding each other over my hot little body."

–Coco Chanel

Enter the Modern Mistress. Confident with her body, independent in spirit, bold in nature, stunningly sexy, and powerful enough to lure a married man away from the comfort and stability of home, wife and kids. The modern mistress is skilled in the art of seduction at its highest level, and knows no boundaries. She uses her femme fatale qualities to keep the bedroom an eternally exciting playroom, and brings this same charm to the boardroom. Getting her way with finesse. She has got nothing to lose, because the Man in her life is not really hers to begin with. And since her L'Amour may be dangerously short lived, she gives the affair all she's got.

Eight rules in mistress dressing:

1. The element of surprise. A high slit to expose a flash of thigh, the suggestion of a lace bra, or wearing no lingerie to dinner … all guarantee to keep your man at the edge of his seat.

2. Stay mysterious. During office hours, be a Proper Little Madam in tweed. After eight, morph into a Vamp in leather and vinyl. Pair a 1940's tweed jacket with a vintage design rose bra with ribbon detail. Wear pink frilly knickers underneath a straight cut herringbone wool trouser. The anomaly will keep him guessing. Remember that wives are usually predictable.

3. Be a chameleon. Mistresses are never boring. Experiment with wigs, costumes, period dressing, outrageous accessories. Try on various personas. The saucy school girl, the naughty nurse, the sultry stranger, the sexy secretary, the foxy French maid. Your man knows his wife well, as he lives with her everyday. Peak his interest by making sure he never gets to know you completely.

4. Body bling. A mistress can never compete with the wife's huge collection of precious jewels. Don't even bother to adorn yourself with real stones. She is way ahead of you. Instead, adorn your nakedness with body oil and body glitter. Look for semi transparent latex nipple tassles.

5. Stay on the best-dressed list, both in public and behind closed doors. Wear high quality lingerie … corset briefs, crocheted gloves, polka dot and lace knickers, a feather cape, crotchless panties and thongs, a floral headpiece. As a theme, think Fallen Angel, a good girl turned bad.

6. Dress to undress. Head to bed in floor length night gowns in the best silk and satin designs. The wife might just be using old t-shirts or ratty nightgowns at home. Ask your stylist to help you create bed head hair.

7. Don't underestimate the power of suggestion. Accessorize with phallic symbols, curves and mounds that bring to mind the human body. Luxury labels like Gucci and Agent Provocateur already showcase rhinestone studded handcuffs and jewel encrusted whips in their accessories portfolio. Your may not have the wife's bank account, but youth and physique are on your side.

8. Fuck me shoes. Killer heels, sculpted ankle boots in deep purple, 1940's style blood red patent platform patent leather shoes, cheetah stone washed suede pumps, over-the-knee rock star boots. These will also stay handy in case the wife attacks you in an unexpected catfight.

SUPER MUST SEE MOVIE

Speaking in volumes

By James Gabrillo

BASED ON A SHORT story by Pulitzer Prize-winning **Annie Proulx** and directed by Taiwanese-born director **Ang Lee**, "Brokeback Mountain" is a tale set among the mountains and grasslands of Wyoming and Texas. To be found in "Brokeback Mountain" is the truth that resists feebly to the shell of Ennis Del Mar (**Heath Ledger**) and Jack Twist (**Jake Gyllenhaal**)—two men whose authentic wishes hang about unfulfilled and buried away.

Director of photography **Rodrigo Prieto**'s camera unbolts to us the scenery of Signal, Wyoming, where its beautiful state-owned mountains are being used illegally as pasture for sheep. The season of '63 brings together Ennis and Jack as they work together on herding and tending—one keeps watch the animals on high ground, while the other cooks far down. There is then no opportunity for both to investigate their deep, true yearnings until a cold night situates both men into the tent together.

As early as this scene, we are already aware of the reality that the love both men have for each other cannot be easily shaped to comfortably fit into their lives. Their happiness is cut when both are forced to go back to their own detached ways as they grow and nurture their own wives and families.

During the next twenty years, Ennis and Jack see each other via their short and sporadic fishing trips back to where they first met—at Brokeback Mountain. Each time they see each other, they are haunted by the spook of how happy they might have been had they lived together.

When Jack learns that Ennis and his wife have divorced, he proposes that they live as one up in the vicinity of his parents. But Ennis turns down the suggestion as he remembers an incident during his childhood when a homosexual man who dared live with his partner was murdered.

After Ennis divorces with his wife, he goes out with a likable waitress—but all results awfully as she ends up perplexed with Ennis' true personality. New York Times' Daniel Mendelsohn observes that this goes to show that Ennis and Jack are stained not because of their homosexuality; but because they pretend they are not gay—it is this deceit that contaminates every person that they relate with.

Brokeback Mountain is not a life but an escape from it

Breaking away from norms

It is in their final vacation that they are faced with the trouble caused by their shared incriminations. "I wish I knew how to quit you," Jack says, exceedingly distraught that Ennis has refused to battle with him so that they can both breathe as one.

"It's because of you that I'm like this—nothing, nobody," answers Ennis as he falls down in the dust. He is informing Jack that he sees himself as "nothing" because through his love for him, he is forced to become conscious of a sexual nature—a real passion—that he cannot disregard but which his environment has not outfitted him to accept as a piece in his life. This "nothingness" Ennis painfully refers to speaks of the film's effort to convey the meaninglessness of unrealized lives.

In the most affecting scene found at the concluding parts of the film, Ennis is told of how to a great extent he was loved; but it is too late. He is left to think about the life he has lived, and the life that might have been.

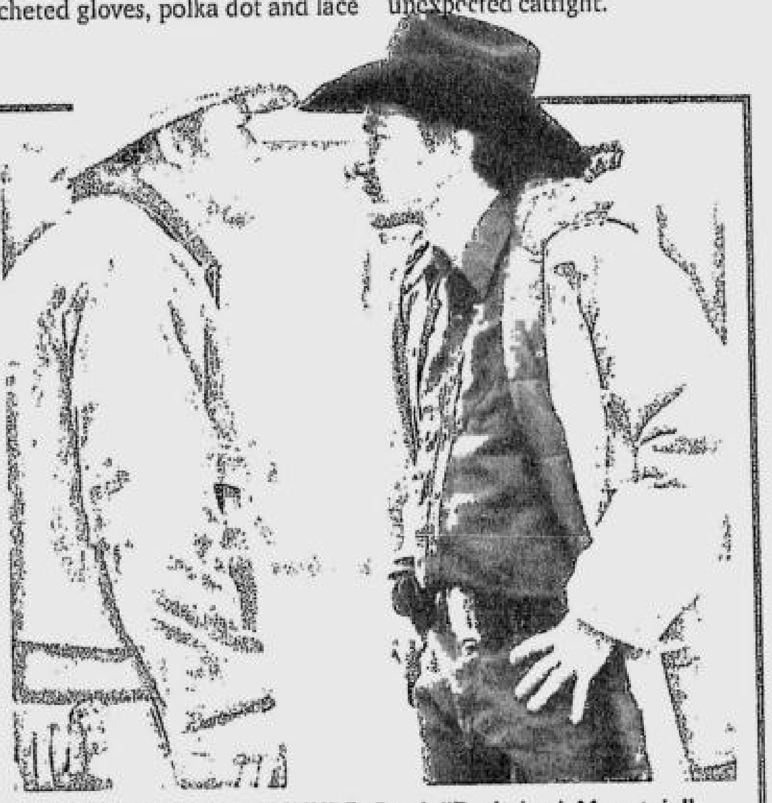
"Brokeback Mountain" is about the grievous moral and emotional consequences of self-imprisonment and of the intolerance granted by society that aggravates this problem. It is a visual rendering of two people who we believe in and relate to—three-dimensional beings devoid of stereotype or presumption.

The shots in the film are piercingly and significantly quiet. Gustavo Santaoalla's music—steel guitars and strings—lends a special shell of poignancy to the film.

Committing a steal via his agonizingly internalized performance, Ledger speaks with a terse lockjaw—exemplifying the burden of suppression, the unjustified firmness of both Western individualism and collective obligation.

Redefining real men

Ennis and Jack are homosexuals, however due to the prejudice that they grew up with, they are psychologically bound to reject their true selves. They knew rightly how much they loved each other yet in spite of this, they deemed themselves as ordinary men—and they disallowed being branded by anyone or by anything.



LOVE IS A FORCE OF NATURE. Catch "Brokeback Mountain" when it opens on Feb. 15.

American sociologist Ervin Goffman writes in his book "Stigma" that when the beings in our surroundings dub us by a certain label, it becomes extraordinarily difficult, if not unattainable, to maintain a sense of our own humanity. Instead of defining who we are, we start to accept the definition that others have imposed.

It's this system that both cowboys were fighting against—thus advancing their resistance into something more momentous and extra meaningful.

Neither Ennis nor Jack can escape the route presented to them. Both cowboys believed that becoming and freely acting like a homosexual would offend their dignity, and thus their only getaway was Brokeback Mountain, where they can demonstrate their love for one another and where they could in fact obtain what their surroundings could not supply them—a sense of being a man.

"Brokeback Mountain" tells us that love is love—empowering and heartbreaking—and the reality that it materializes amid two men makes it no less real than any other majestic love.

Etiquette for the stalked

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

AH, VALENTINE'S DAY.

For the hot and hitched, this is when Cupid plays Claus, showering picture-perfect couples with cornball chocolate, overpriced flowers, and relentless screenings of "Titanic." For the dateless and desperate, however, this is the day when hearts and arrows turn into skulls and crossbones, and Jack Dawson's platitudes of bat-crazy love for Rose Calvert suddenly become mere synonyms for the Scrooge's "Bah, humbug."

Not to go all dark and emo on you, but for some reason, I find the latter—the loony side of love—more interesting. Nothing says "I heart you" more eloquently than unrequited love, and no one says it better than—dramatic pause—a stalker.

See, there's a fine line between being affectionate and being creepy. Valentine's is when deranged devotees use this muddled love-hate dynamic to their advantage, to the chagrin of their prey. (Ooh, chagrin. Thank you, Shift F7.)

Okay, I totally made that up, but hear me out. Using the collective creepiness of ticking time-bomb thrillers like "Fatal Attraction," "The Crush," and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," I just assumed that it's on the 14th of February that all stalkers, cinematic and otherwise, feel the lack of lovin' the most.

For the record, however, I'd like to state that, despite my enthusiasm for the topic, I am neither a stalker nor a lurker. Nope. In fact, I'm approaching this from the opposite POV: That of—again, dramatic pause—the stalked. Let me explain.

Cue theme from "Psycho"

A form of psychological terror, stalking is when someone contacts you when you repeatedly and explicitly request that they do not. Stalkers watch, follow, call, e-mail, IM, fax or send you mail against your will. By paying you unwanted attention, they become obsessive investigators, interrogators, and intimidators. (In other cultures, they are referred to as telemarketers. Kidding. Or not.)

Their slimy shadows darken gyms, clubs, schools, and cyberspace. According to current statistics, almost a million and a half people are being stalked by an ex, an estranged wife or husband, a secret admirer, or whatever other type of mentally unstable individual.

It's even safe to say that some of you reading this may have been stalked or are being stalked at this time. By "some of you" I mean "me" and by "at this time" I mean "Tuesday." I wanted to write as if the things that happened to me happened to another person but I guess that ship has sailed. Oh well.

Swimfans and such

Like I said, as a friendly, innocent-looking, and lovable cad, I've had the hard luck of being subjected to such unexpected gestures. I was at a fancy-pants resort last year when I was hounded by not one, but two stalkers. At the same time. For three days.

I know, I know. Most of you are probably thinking that I'm a prick who should just get over himself. But if you've watched "Swimfan," you'll see how totally fun it is to be stalked by Erika Christensen. (Lie.) From the pool to my room, I felt like a wildebeest being chased by a pack of cheetahs. (Again, by "pack of cheetahs" I mean a "tiny, pushy, horny Korean tour guide named Jenny and a super sketchy dude who offered me cheap prescription drugs.") I want to preserve my dignity by not sharing stories about me being stalked by shady creatures in school. Or the mall escalator. Or the gym locker room. Too late. Word vomit.

Whoa. That was a tangent.

Anyway, what I'm saying is if it happened to me, it could happen to anyone. You can be blindingly, stupidly optimistic and think who's hounding you is just an extremely enthusiastic stranger who leaves cryptic messages on your MySpace. Trust me, s/he isn't. So before a date turns into date rape and you end up in a bodybag this red-letter day, be on the lookout for that shrub that's following you and review the following:

DON'T PISS HER OFF, DUDE! Madison Bell (Erika Christensen) goes cuckoo for Ben Cronin (Jesse Bradford) in the trashy teen classic, "Swimfan"

If you've ever been the object of unwelcome affection, then you'll recognize these rules, tools, and fools of attraction

Etiquette for the stalked

Rule #1: ID your stalker.

It's kinda tricky to identify a stalker from a garden variety space invader but usually, his/her opening line gives him/her away. "How are you?" Not a stalker. "Boxers or briefs?" Definitely a stalker.

Other signs: Asking for your LJ/Facebook/Xanga address along with your cell/home/fax numbers, IM/YM, gym/class sched without giving his/hers; asking to see you naked; and touching you while touching him/herself and slobbering. Ew. Shudder.

Rule #2: Lock up your pets.

If a stalker can't get to you, s/he will go after your family or pets. But these days, to heighten the sense of tragedy, they will definitely go for your pets. After all, they're the new humans. Keep your ears open to tell-tale words such as "blood," "Glenn Close," or "poisoned Eukanuba." What starts out as an online nicety can end up a boiled bunny.

Rule #3: Sorta cooperate.

When you find yourself face-to-face with your stalker, act as if nothing's wrong. If you're in a bar, offer to buy him/her a drink. S/he will be thrown off by the action. Take advantage of the surprise and slip some cyanide in the cocktail when s/he's not looking. Then run away like a little girl before s/he froths in the mouth. When that fails, however, act like Rambo and spit in your captor's face. Then run away like a little girl before s/he froths in the mouth.

Rule #4: Skip the alcohol.

It will increase your friendliness and cause your judgment skills to fall. And after a few more drinks, you will fall. Into the hands of a stalker who could be watching you get crunk to the Yin Yang Twins. I never thought my stalker could follow me all the way to the VIP room of my favorite club but he did. Thank God I was sober. He wasn't. Dumbass.

Rule #5: Skip town.

Or make it appear like you did. Change your phone number. Create a new e-mail account. Vary your routine. Rinse, repeat. No one should live in fear of someone they don't know.

Rule #6. Look on the bright side

A lot of people get stalked but not everyone does so consider yourself part of the hot minority. Laugh at it then weep inconsolably. I think you've earned the right to break down at this point.

Rule #7. Stalk back.

Yes, Valentine's is a nice day. A nice day for revenge. Since you've already ID'd your stalker (Rule #1), you can now outcreep him/her. You should never rationalize with irrational people so go ahead, use your imagination, and act bananas. Go up to your stalker and whisper Venga Boys lyrics in his/her ears. "Boom boom boom boom, I want you in my room…" Who's the crazy douche bag now, HUH? So there.

Rule #8: Obey everything I just said.

Or don't. Whatever works. Happy Valentine's Day!

Valentine Voices and . . .

From page C4

a song with my uncle called, "Love Can Wait." I was 15 so of course I wrote *pa*-cute .When I did my second album it was called, "Love is Here" My third album was, "*Di Na Ako Aasa*," (Laughs)

Isn't it cool how you look back at your music?

G: It's funny.

V: I go, "It could have been better..." (Laughs)

R: And it's also the people that come into your life that have influenced us. Like, my first boyfriend was Mr. Pop himself—so of course my type music was very pop-y. In the same manner, Geneva Cruz, she's very hip-hop now. And we all know why!

G: I've always liked hip-hop though.

R: I mean, it always depends on the influences in your life—places you've traveled to, people that come into your life. And as you get older you gain experiences and friends. We are influenced whether we are aware of it or not. You get ideas, and you mix all of that together along with what you've done in the past, and that makes you who you are.

What's the wildest thing that has ever happened to you on stage?

V: The wildest I guess, is in my concerts abroad. People are so excited to see you. After the concert they still want to be with you. It can be a bit tiring, but I love it.

R: I've never had a riot. But the wildest thing for me...

G: *Natapilok ka di ba, sa* Folk Arts Theatre? *Yung natalisod ka*?

R: *Ay oo, nahulog ako*! But it was dark. I tripped 'cause I didn't see the monitor.

G: *Ako isa lang*. PLDT Christmas party. I was wearing a red, backless corset. KC (Montero) was backstage. I was singing already, and then I felt the back of my corset snap. "Oh my God. I think *mahuhubaran ako*!" All the guys had their camera phones pointed at me. It's a good thing the corset was hard and it didn't fold. I kept my arms stiff, and Jinky of Freestyle was clipping the corsette back on. KC came out and said, "Hello, ladies and gentlemen!" All the guys said, "Aww!"

Tell us about your concert?

G: The title is "How to get the guy" and there's three of us. And what we thought about was "What do guys really want in a girl? Someone sweet that you can take home to your mother? Or a vamp, who's, I dunno, crazy? Or a girl who's one of the guys?" So that's what we're gonna talk about throughout the show. Like, I'm going to say something bad to Vina, something funny, and try to kill her...

No catfights on stage?

G: A little bit. But it's just acting!

V: There's a lot of girl talk. We're not experts on love so we also ask the people how to "get the guy." We have really good music, good production numbers.

G: And we promise we won't roast you guys!

"How to Get the Guy" is on February 10, 11, and 13; 8:30 p.m. at the Music Museum. Call Ticket World at 891-9999 or Music Museum at 721-6726.

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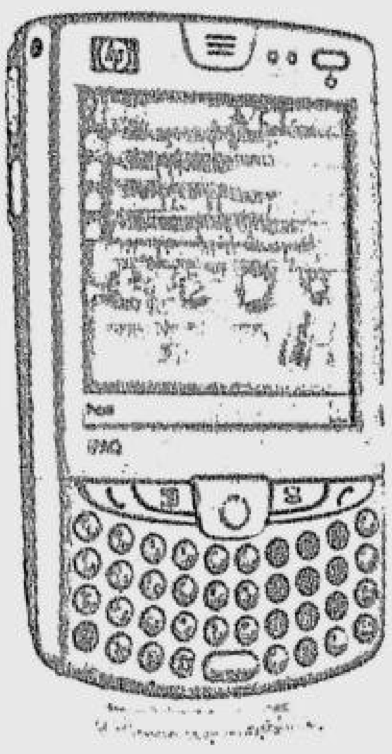

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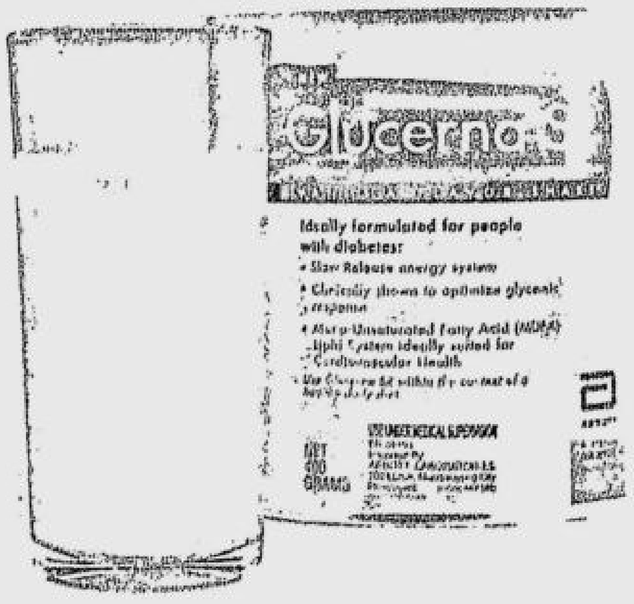

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Valentine Voices and more capital V's

Geneva Cruz Rachel Alejandro and Vina Morales make concert love this week

By Pepe Diokno
Photos by Tania Paulsen

WITH ALL THESE BANDS AROUND now, you're almost tempted to knock all these balladeers and "all-around-entertainers" off the face of OPM.

But these singers have powers. (Thank God I've never been attacked by any of them.) You can't deny the power they have to draw the masses.

They make millions of people happy each week. And it's a gift to be able to do that—many people spend their whole careers trying to find that magic.

However, in a society filled with 2D telenovela characters, and freaky caricatures of people on "S-Files" or "The Buzz," we don't give these *artistas* enough depth, and that in turn doesn't benefit anyone—including the fans.

So what better way to give depth than to ask Geneva Cruz, Rachel Alejandro and Vina Morales the following question: "Do you have magic powers?" For our protection, of course.

VA-VA-VOOM! Valentine voices teach you how to get the guy.

Are you three secretly sisters with magic powers?

Geneva (G): Hell yeah! I have powers! *Parang* "Yaya Sisterhood!"

No, really?

G: *Hindi, wala!* (Laughs)

Rachel (R): Gen and I have called each other "Sis" for a long time, and we're as close as any sisters could be. But about magic powers... I don't know! (Laughs)

Vina (V): Magic powers? I can't even, like... Well, probably, when it comes to music, we have that power of our voices...

What brings you three together?

G: Rachel and I did a concert, like, two years ago, it was called, "Showdown." And we are with Vina, on ASAP.

V: We hang out also, outside of work. And we came up with this concept of working together. We're on stage together for about 80 percent of the show.

It must be really fun.

V: It is. It's just a bit tiring because we sing and dance.

R: There's a lot of new material as well. It's going to be a very young show—very high energy. We've done a lot of this stuff for television, and we thought it might translate well on the concert stage.

Do you write your own music?

V: All three of us write.

Is that part of your core as artists?

G: Yeah. I always have my phone, when something comes to me, I record the melody and then I come up with words. It's like that when I'm inspired, I guess. (Laughs)

V: With me it depends—sometimes I start with melodies, then I go write the lyrics. It can start with a hum, or I can start writing stories of how I felt, then I put in the melody.

R: I'm very moody *e*. An idea will strike me—I can be on a plane, or in the bathroom. But there's really no way for me to sit down and say "I'm going to write a song." That's why I write like one song every few years. I wish I were more productive, but it doesn't happen! (Laughs)

What kind of music do you prefer doing?

G: Well, it's easier for me to write and sing ballads. I've never written a fast song.

R: I have written some upbeat songs. I'd write the lyrics then I'd have my cousin, Nino Alejandro to write the music, and he'd arrange it.

V: Well, you have to be able to know how to play an instrument as well. Who can write a beautiful fast song? You need to be able to know how to play an instrument. For a ballad, you can just sing it and hum it, and then record it.

Do people respond to ballads more?

R: In the Philippines.

I don't wanna sound like an ass, but is that a bad thing or a good thing? 'Cause my friends and I are like, you know, it's what we hear on TV all the time...

V: Well, it's so hard to compete with upbeat music from abroad.

G: And ballads, the classics, *mas tumatagal.*

Is it our niche as Filipino musicians?

V: Yes. We're an emotional people, I guess.

We all saw OPM's big boom these past few years

G: Yeah, there are a lot of new bands. Majority, bands *talaga.*

How do you see OPM this year? Cause it was a boom; is there a tail-end to that boom or will it sustain itself?

R: We definitely hope so. It's been a while since the radio stations have been this supportive. I think the last time was back in the '80s and early '90s. Towards the late '90s and early '00s there was hardly any OPM being played on the radio. You know, we're happy that any kind of OPM is being played—whether it's ours or not.

V: We all need to be supportive of their own.

Original(ity) Sin

What do you think caused the "downfall"—or whatever—of OPM in the '90s?

G: *Nagpalit ba tayo ng presidente?* (Laughs)

V: I'll just say we're so lucky now. Cause we count so much on the support of all the music stations. But I think at that time people thought that there were more beautiful songs coming from foreign artists. And *medyo nag*-lay-low *rin tayo ng konti*. Cause we were scared about the piracy...

G: In the '80s radio stations mostly played OPM songs. *Sunud-sunod yun. Konti lang yung* foreign songs.

V: That's why Gary V could have an album wherein every song became a hit. And that doesn't happen anymore.

R: It's a join effort to sustain OPM. And, you know what, not to be *ano*, but I think there is a shortage of good compositions. I don't know why that is. But even with movies, with scripts, I find that the problem is originality. There's very little material to go around. I think it's because Filipinos, our character is that we're natural-born performers. Nobody wants to be at the back. Nobody wants to do the writing.

But on the other hand, you can say that there isn't "originality," or new things, because we think the masses won't respond to it?

V: It's not just that. It's also because we don't have enough money. (Laughs) 'Cause when you do an album you have to have a budget. And you don't always make that money back.

G: Pirated *lahat*...

V: So it's really hard for producers and artists as well. Not only in music, but also in movies. Sometimes we have no choice but to go with the flow.

R: No one wants to educate. No one wants to take the risk. Everyone wants to play it safe. And then what happens is once somebody comes out with something that works, everything else will sound like that after.

G: And the stations are divided, too. Like, "O, upscale *yung* radio station *na 'to*, that's all they'll play, *yung sosyal. Yung iba, pang-masa,* " Before it wasn't like that.

Growing pains and pianos

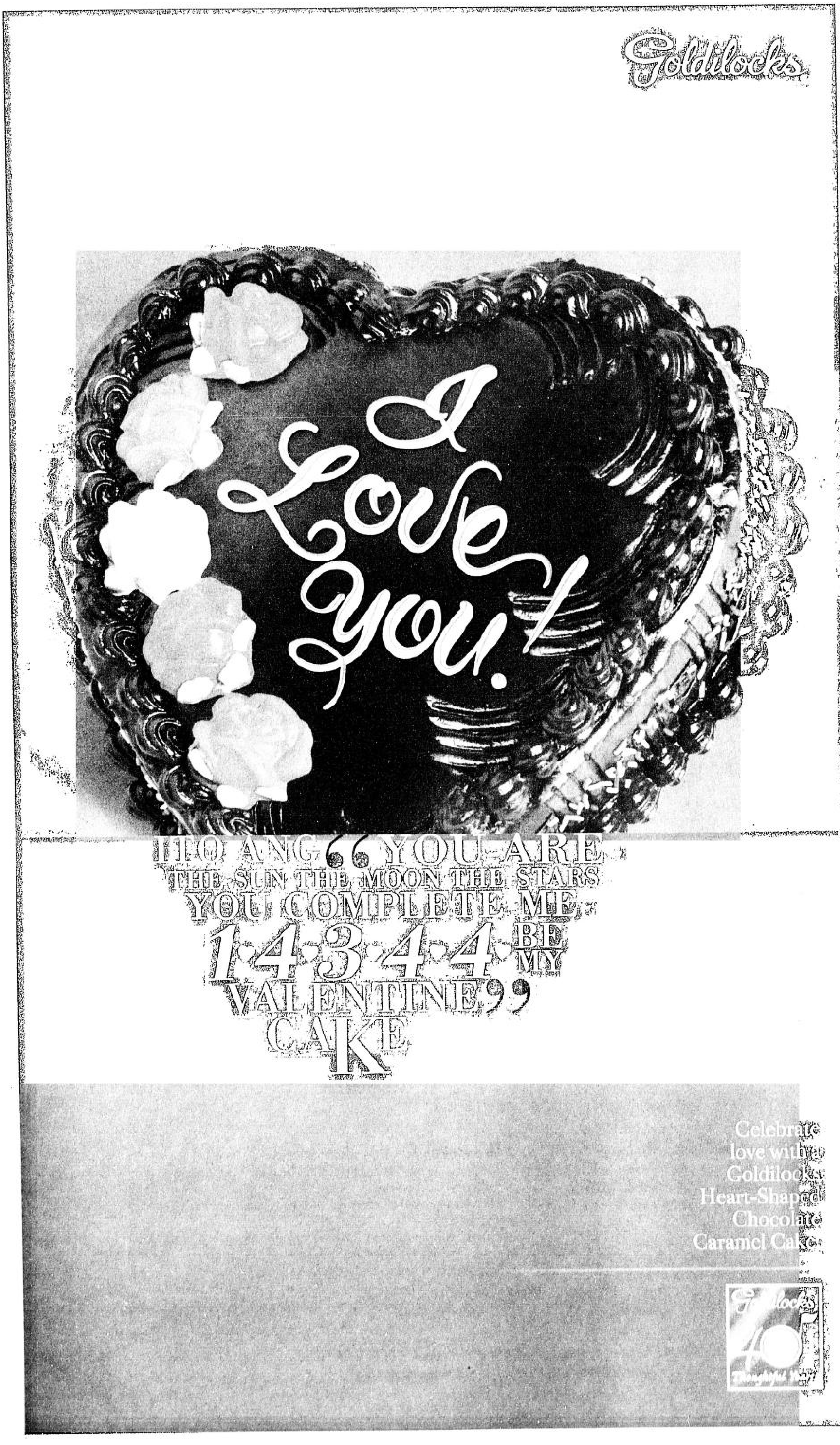
How has your music evolved from the time you started?

V: I think I've matured a bit. Now I have a say in what I do. Before *kasi* it was, "Here Vina, do this," and I'd go, "Ok!" Now I really choose what I want.

R: You become more involved in the production process. I produced my last two albums. And I've produced more than that. Like, if something goes wrong it's my fault! (Laughs)

G: I came from a group, and we were just told what to do 'cause we were kids—like, 12 or 13. When I did my first solo album, and I composed

VALENTINE/ C3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The solitary Adventures of Cupid in the 21st century

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

HELLO, I'M SURE YOU KNOW me by now. I'm a professional hitman whose name rhymes with "stupid."

One day in the year, I get to dress up in Pampers, put on white feathery wings, and get to use my antedated weapon to aim my arrows at people's chests without getting arrested for manslaughter. That's because everybody actually wants to get hit by me. So they can start getting all googly-eyed and spaced out and actually find deeper meanings behind cheesy love songs at odd hours in the day.

It's a tough job, really. People don't realize that my work isn't bound to a single, red-letter day in the calendar year (not like that fat guy, Santa, who even has reindeers and elves to help him out—is it any wonder why he's a blimp?). Nope, I work 24/7, Monday to Sunday, 365 days in the year, plus one if it's a leap year, without rest or overtime pay. The demand for my services is just too high! Man, if I even so much as took a day off, there'd be another loon drowning in tequila and bitching about being unloved while crooning along to "Love is a Battlefield." Or there'd be another self-proclaimed romance guru like Dr. Phil to add more garbage to the overcrowded self-help shelf in the bookstore.

You're probably familiar with my work. My more notorious projects have been all over the media for centuries since people have taken up gossiping as a universal pastime. There was Marc Antony and Cleopatra, a scandal that rocked Roman society back then because of all these political shenanigans. Yeah, Cleo was the queen of Egypt, and a real Pharoah-sexual to boot. She married her younger brother and then became Caesar's mistress before shacking up with Marc A, who killed himself when he thought she was dead so she in turn had herself bitten by a poisonous asp. Now there's a good reason not to kiss asp!

Perhaps you've heard of Shah Jahan, ruler of the Mughal Empire, who married a teenage virgin named Mumtaz

THE SOLITARY/ D3

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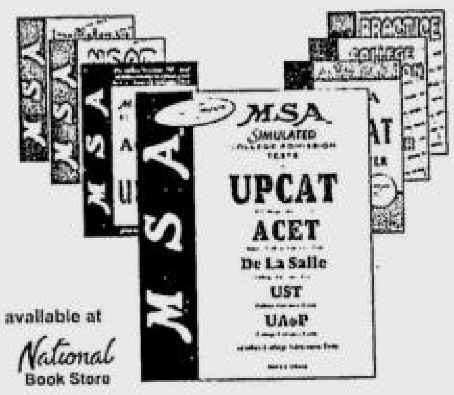

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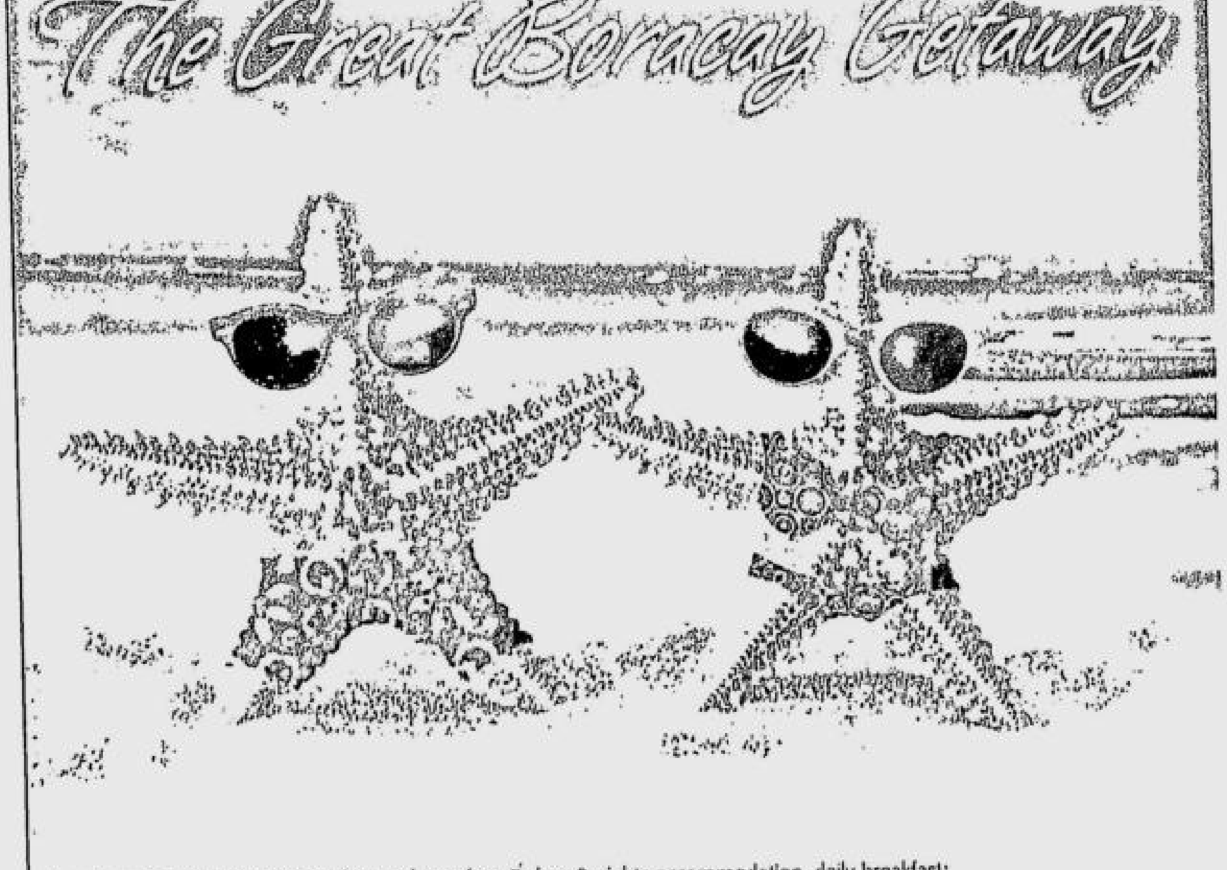

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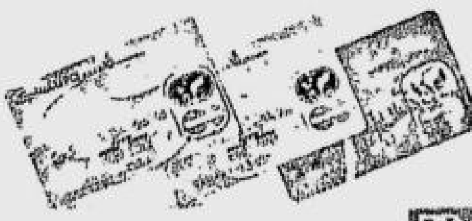

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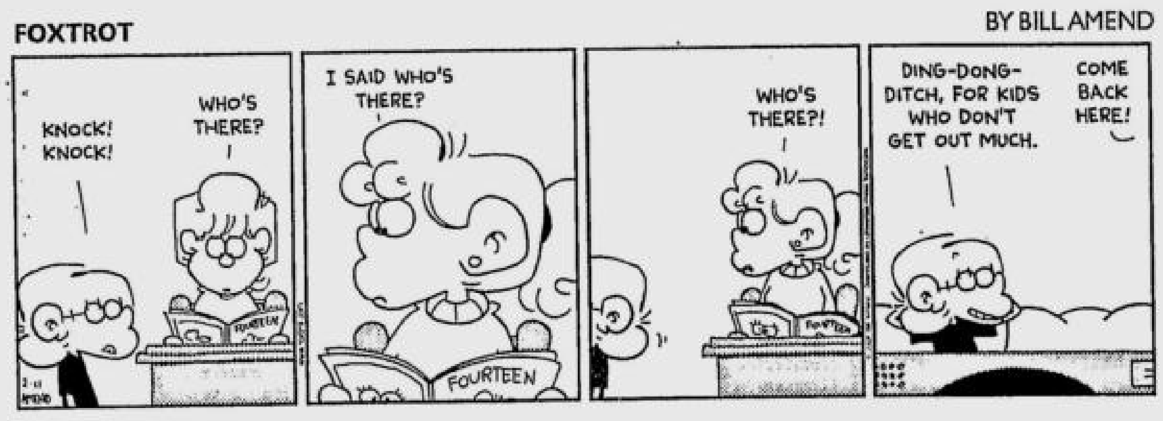
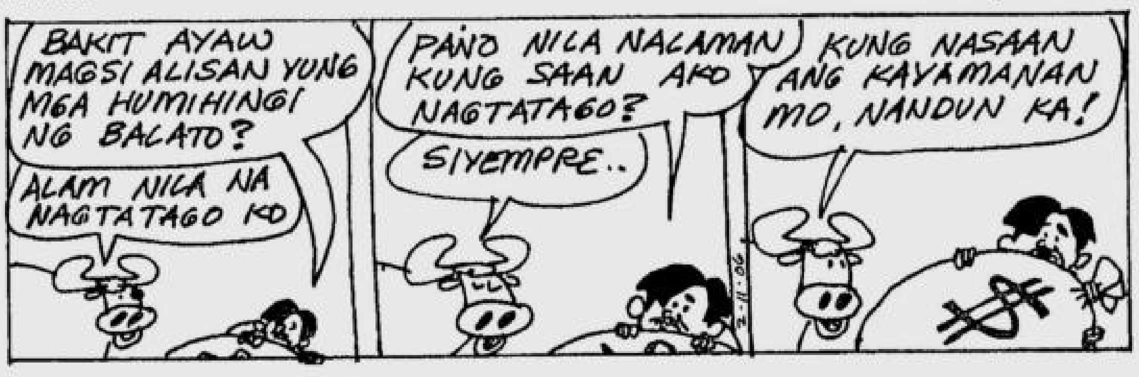
BY BILL AMEND


KNOCK! KNOCK!
WHO'S THERE?
I SAID WHO'S THERE?
FOURTEEN
WHO'S THERE?!
DING-DONG-DITCH, FOR KIDS WHO DON'T GET OUT MUCH.
COME BACK HERE!

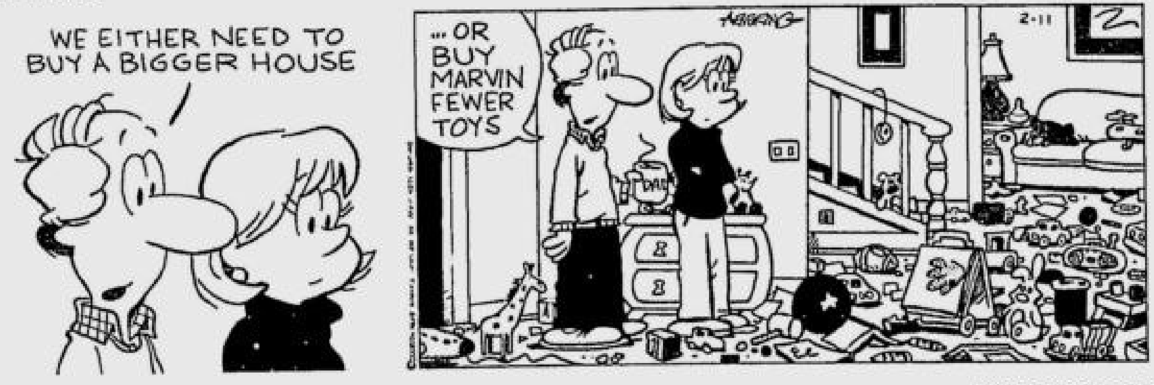
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT AYAW MAGSI ALISAN YUNG MGA HUMIHINGI NG BALATO?
ALAM NILA NA NAGTATAGO KO
PANO NILA NALAMAN KUNG SAAN AKO NAGTATAGO?
SIYEMPRE..
KUNG NASAAN ANG KAYAMANAN MO, NANDUN KA!

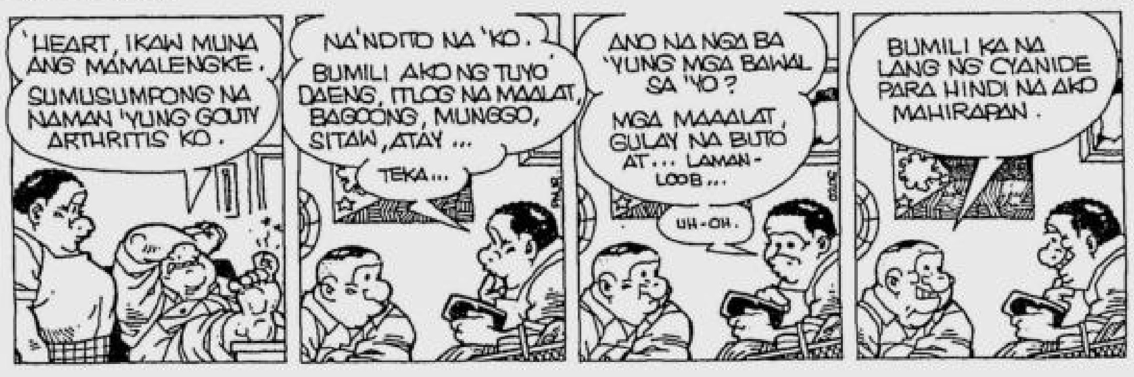
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WE EITHER NEED TO BUY A BIGGER HOUSE
...OR BUY MARVIN FEWER TOYS
2-11

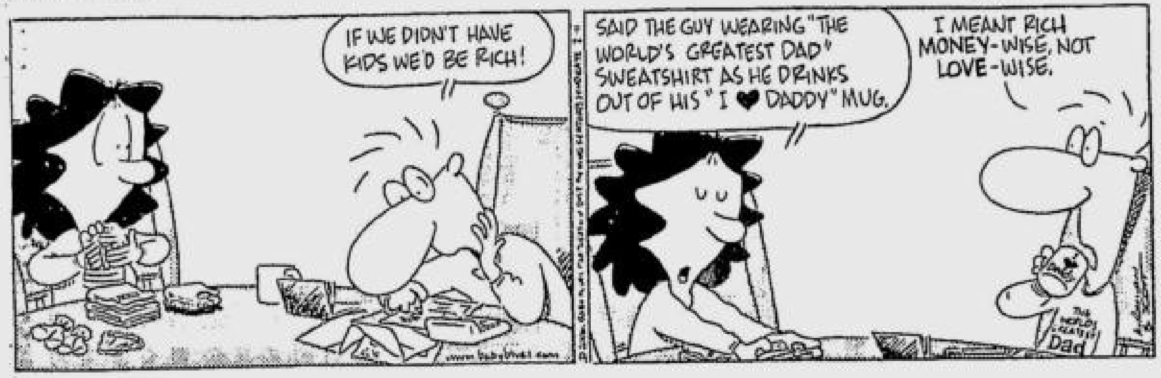
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'HEART, IKAW MUNA ANG MAMALENGKE.
SUMUSUMPONG NA NAMAN 'YUNG GOUTY ARTHRITIS KO.
NA'NDITO NA 'KO.
BUMILI AKO NG TUYO' DAENG, ITLOG NA MAALAT, BAGOONG, MUNGGO, SITAW, ATAY ...
TEKA...
ANO NA NGA BA 'YUNG MGA BAWAL SA 'YO?
MGA MAAALAT, GULAY NA BUTO AT... LAMAN-LOOB...
UH-OH.
BUMILI KA NA LANG NG CYANIDE PARA HINDI NA AKO MAHIRAPAN.

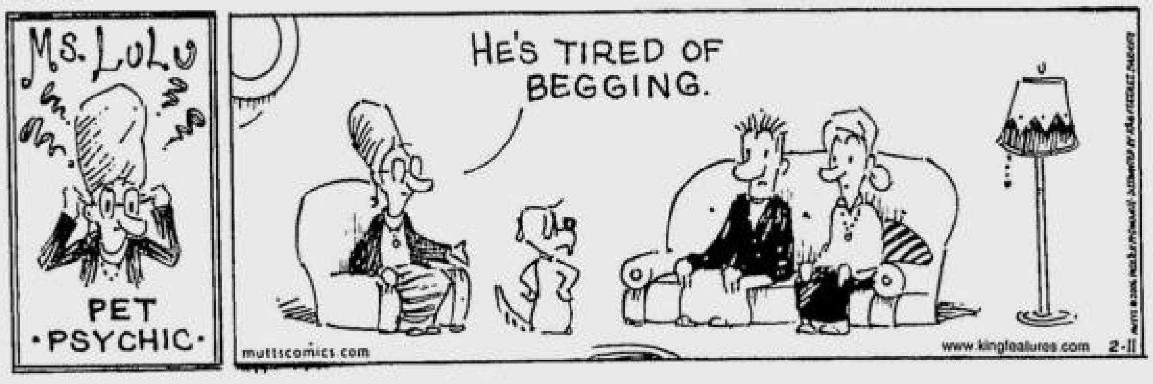
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IF WE DIDN'T HAVE KIDS WE'D BE RICH!
SAID THE GUY WEARING "THE WORLD'S GREATEST DAD" SWEATSHIRT AS HE DRINKS OUT OF HIS "I ♥ DADDY" MUG.
I MEANT RICH MONEY-WISE, NOT LOVE-WISE.
Dad

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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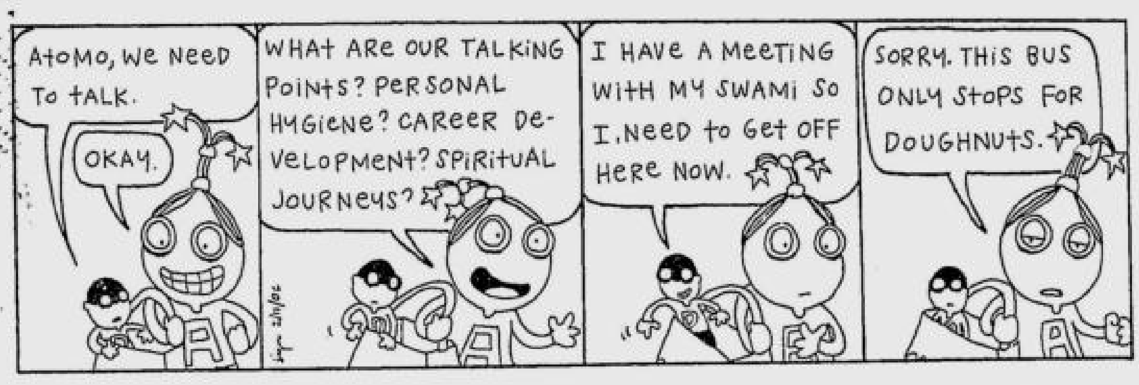
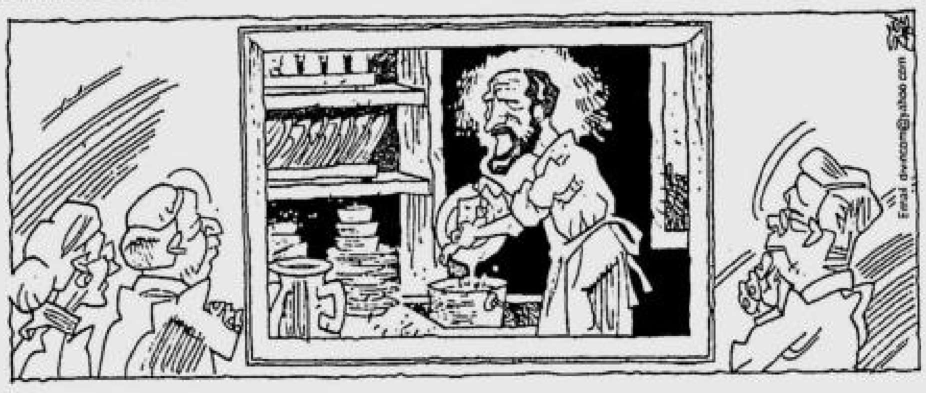
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Atomo, We Need To talk.
OKAY.
WHAt ARe OUR TALKiNG Points? PeR SONAL HyGieNe? CAReeR De-VeLoPMeNt? SPiRituAL JOURNeyS?
I HAVe A MeeTiNG WitH My SWAMi So I Need to Get OFF HeRe NoW.
SoRRy. THiS BUS ONLy StoPS FoR DOUGHNUtS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



LEONARDO DA VINCI'S NOT-SO-FAMOUS PAINTING: "THE DISH-WASHER AFTER THE LAST SUPPER"

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright and inventive. Some of you have the mind of a genius. Not only can you think outside-the-box, you have a strong desire to improve things for everyone. Freedom is a survival issue for you; nevertheless, you always help your friends. An important choice awaits you this year. What will it be?
Birthdate of: Sheryl Crow, singer; Burt Reynolds, actor; Jennifer Aniston, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Parents must avoid being critical or harsh with children today. It's easy to fall into this. Remember: "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more." (Goethe)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Avoid being judgmental of family members today. What's the point of fault-finding? It doesn't help anything, and it makes people feel miserable! (And you know this.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for routine, serious, detailed, methodical work. Just plod along and get it done. (All work and no play makes Jack a rich boy!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're watching your pennies today. You feel thrifty and frugal. You don't want to spend money if you don't need to. You're more concerned with security.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel a bit cautious today—perhaps even depressed. That's because the Moon is in your sign, and it lines up with stern Saturn. This is all very serious and, fortunately, very brief!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Illusions of inadequacy can grip you today. You feel uneasy, worried and not sure of yourself. Don't let these things get you down. It's just a temporary dark cloud on your horizon.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone older or more experienced might have good advice for you. This might help you. Or it might make you feel insecure and diminished. Don't worry about that. Let it go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with bosses are serious today. Suddenly, duty seems to be your first priority. You want to do things correctly and in the right order. Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Delays or setbacks to travel plans or matters connected with publishing and the media are likely today. Just bide your time. This too shall pass.

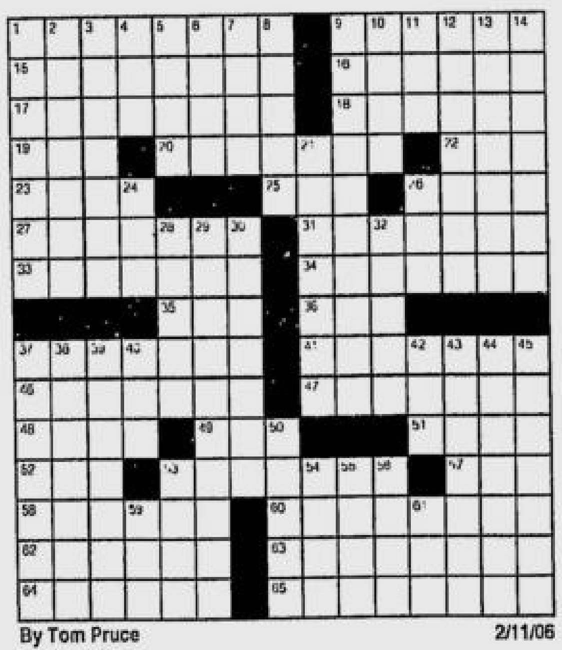
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might think others are being stingy with something today. And perhaps they are! This is not a good day to figure out how to share things. People are extremely territorial and closefisted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Relations with partners and close friends are a bit flat today. Spontaneity and warmth are not forthcoming. Just accept this gracefully.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day for good, plain, old-fashioned hard work. Just get down to it. Tackle stuff you've been putting off for a long time. It will be easy to do today.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Roundabout
9 Savor
15 Day of wrath: Lat.
16 Sicilian code of silence
17 Bivouac
18 Sand trap
19 Long duration
20 Makes certain
22 __ Jose, CA
23 Like hens' teeth?
25 For each
26 Play part
27 Trainer or dentist
31 Now and then
33 Cloy
34 Harvesters
35 Buddhist sect
36 "A Nightmare on __ Street"
37 Stockman
41 Puts back in the box
46 Daughter of King Minos
47 Leak stopper
48 Delta deposit
49 Under the weather
51 Carrie in "Star Wars"
52 Male swan
53 Map volumes
57 Porker's quarters
58 Degree holders
60 Sled dog
62 Roller-coaster again?
63 Respondent
64 Analyzes chemically
65 React to a heavy blow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15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
2/11/06

DOWN
1 Proofs of age
2 Falls for honeymooners
3 Black mark
4 AOL, e.g.
5 Project vertically
6 Moran or Gray
7 "Memory" musical
8 Prepare to drive a golf ball
9 U.S. Grant's counterpart
10 Cassowary kin
11 Spy novelist Deighton
12 Vexing
13 Thief
14 Gain control over
21 Parents
24 Inventor Whitney
26 Grave letters?
28 Kicked back
29 Endless periods
30 "Kissing the Gunner's Daughter" author
32 Home of the Devil Rays
37 Buckthorn
38 Baltimore pros
39 Shaw and Wright
40 Vocational identifier
42 What the winner takes
43 Pause in conversation
44 Intertwiner
45 Those that remain
50 Tibetan monks
53 Gibb or Garcia
54 Compos mentis
55 Apart from this
56 Carpenter's tools
59 Farrow of "Rosemary's Baby"
61 NYC opera house

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	D	■	S	P	A	M	■	A	T	I	L	T
H	A	L	O	■	H	U	L	A	■	T	E	R	A	I
E	L	M	O	■	A	M	I	N	■	T	A	R	P	S
A	L	A	U	G	H	A	M	I	N	U	T	E	■	■
P	E	S	T	O	■	■	O	A	T	■	I	G	O	R
■	■	■	O	N	E	I	N	C	H	■	M	U	N	I
T	O	O	F	U	N	N	Y	■	■	R	E	L	E	T
A	L	P	■	T	O	N	■	M	I	A	■	A	N	E
I	D	E	A	S	■	■	F	O	R	W	O	R	D	S
G	E	R	M	■	A	L	R	O	K	E	R	■	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	D	E	Y	■	■	S	O	F	I	A
■	■	S	I	D	E	S	P	L	I	T	T	I	N	G
D	E	T	E	R	■	S	A	I	D	■	U	L	A	N
I	V	A	N	A	■	E	N	D	F	■	N	E	N	E
P	A	R	T	Y	■	E	S	S	O	■	D	R	E	W

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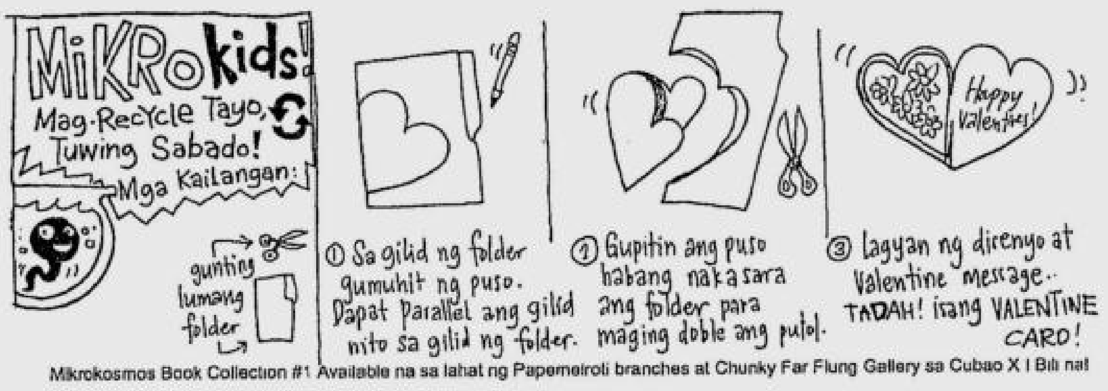
2/11/06

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

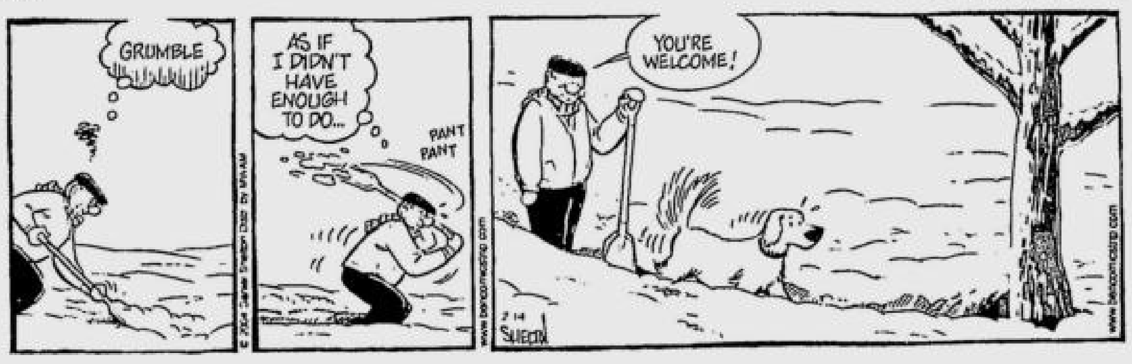

MiKRo kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
gunting
lumang folder
Happy Valentines!

① Sa gilid ng folder gumuhit ng puso. Dapat Parallel ang gilid nito sa gilid ng folder.
① Gupitin ang puso habang naka sara ang folder para maging doble ang putol.
③ lagyan ng direnyo at Valentine message.. TADAH! isang VALENTINE CARD!

Mikrokosmos Book Collection #1 Available na sa lahat ng Papemelroti branches at Chunky Far Flung Gallery sa Cubao X I Bili na!

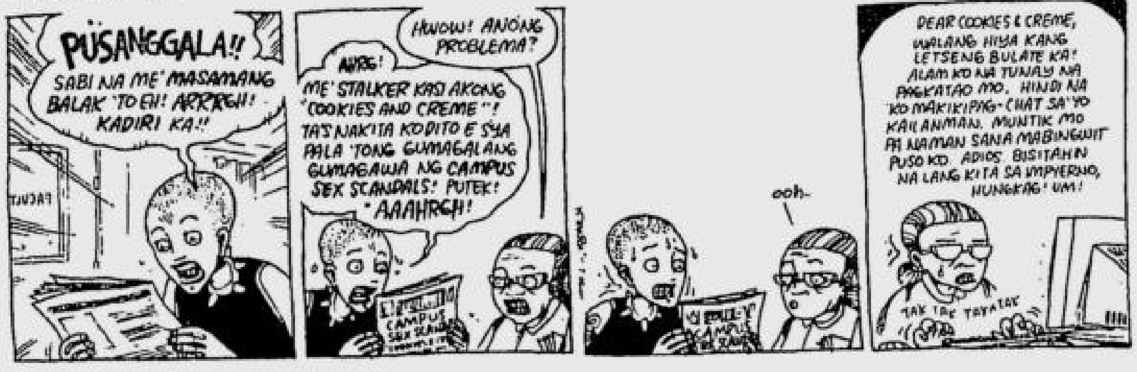
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRUMBLE
AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO DO...
PANT PANT
YOU'RE WELCOME!

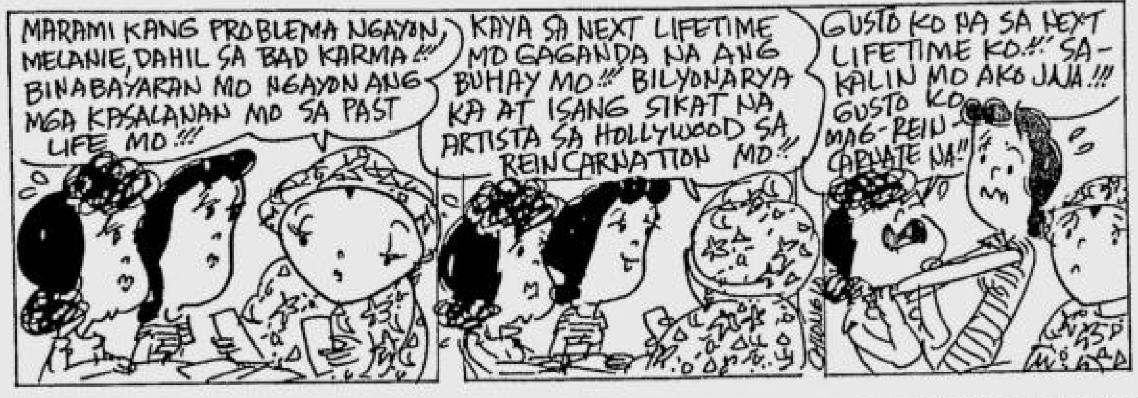
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PUSANGGALA!! SABI NA ME' MASAMANG BALAK 'TO EH! ARRRGH! KADIRI KA!!
HWOW! ANONG PROBLEMA?
ARG! ME' STALKER KASI AKONG "COOKIES AND CREME"! TAS NAKITA KO DITO E SYA PALA 'TONG GUMAGALANG GUMAGAWA NG CAMPUS SEX SCANDALS! PUTEK! *AAAHRGH!
ooh-
DEAR COOKIES & CREME, WALANG HIYA KANG LETSENG BULATE KA! ALAM KO NA TUNAY NA PAGKATAO MO. HINDI NA 'KO MAKIKIPAG-CHAT SA'YO KAILANMAN. MUNTIK MO PA NAMAN SANA MABINGWIT PUSO KO. ADIOS. BISITAHIN NA LANG KITA SA IMPYERNO, HUNGKAG! UM!
TAK TAK TAYATAK

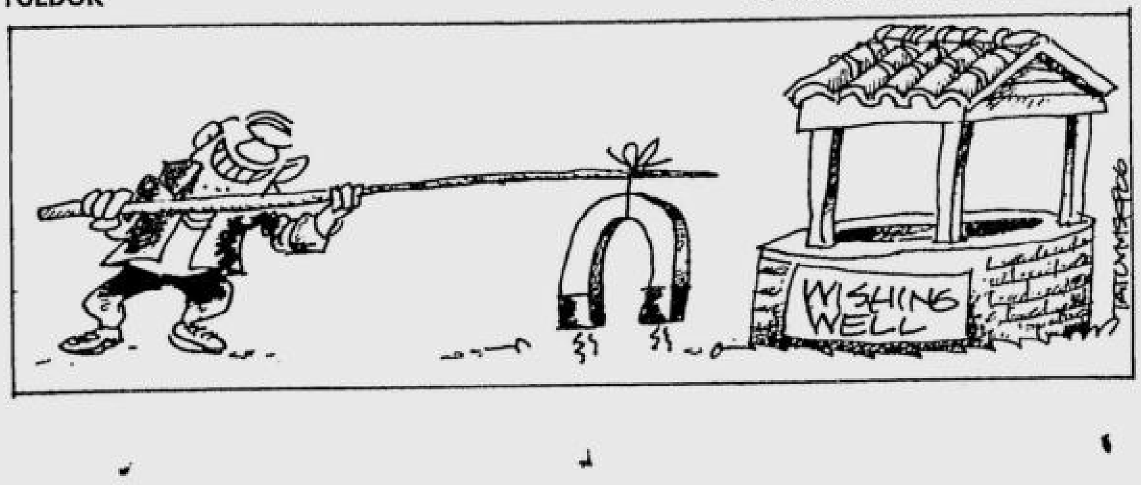
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MARAMI KANG PROBLEMA NGAYON, MELANIE, DAHIL SA BAD KARMA!!! BINABAYARAN MO NGAYON ANG MGA KASALANAN MO SA PAST LIFE MO!!!
KAYA SA NEXT LIFETIME MO GAGANDA NA ANG BUHAY MO!!! BILYONARYA KA AT ISANG SIKAT NA ARTISTA SA HOLLYWOOD SA REINCARNATION MO!!
GUSTO KO NA SA NEXT LIFETIME KO!!! SAKALIN MO AKO JAJA!!! GUSTO KO MAG-REINCARNATE NA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WISHING WELL

Watch MTV Bling this Valentine's

THIS FEB. 14, MTV IS SET TO break ground once again when it launches the new lifestyle reality show, MTV Bling, hosted by the king of the social scene himself, Tim Yap. As an eventologist-writer-editor-endorser-entrepreneur-model-actor-host, this multi-hyphenate leads a life so extraordinary, that it deserves its share on the boob tube spotlight.

Enter a world so fantastic, where everything is not as it seems—its infinitely more interesting. Take an exclusive trip into Tim's world and find out what it would be like to live his exciting and colorful life. Trust Tim and MTV to take what's familiar and turn it upside down to give you a truly heady and exciting experience.

MTV Bling, which is presented by Netgames and Motorola Sliver, premieres this coming Tuesday at 11 p.m., with replays on Thursdays at 8 p.m., and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Sparkle with silver

SILVER IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD THIS Valentine season.

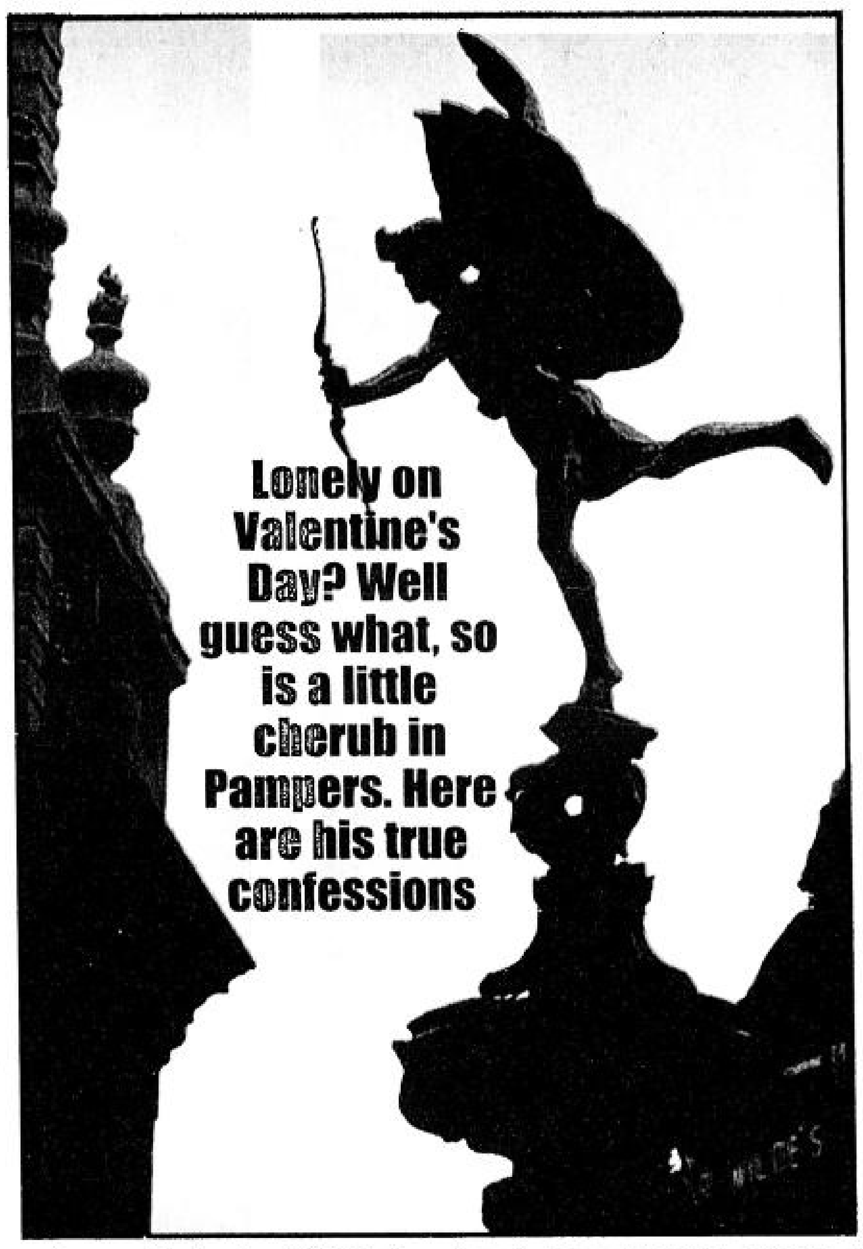
If you're a girl, add extra bling to your Valentine's outfit with beautiful silver creations. Look dazzling in hot sterling silver pieces. If you're a guy and you're still searching for the perfect gift for your girl, check out Silverworks' classic sterling silver necklace and heart pendant set. This expression of love will only set you back P495—an easy-on-the-budget way to make your special girl happy.

And if you're planning a nice dinner at home, Silverworks' latest collection also features an alluring array of elegant and colorful cocktail rings in an assortment of shapes and designs like floral and butterfly. Visit any Silverworks outlet in major malls nationwide and have a rocking Valentine.

Silverworks is now open in Lemketkai Mall Cagayan de Oro City.

The solitary adventures . . .

From page D1



Lonely on Valentine's Day? Well guess what, so is a little cherub in Pampers. Here are his true confessions

Mahal. When his Mahal died seventeen years later, the poor emperor was seized with heartbreak and an edifice complex, that he got 20,000 workers and a thousand elephants to build the Taj Mahal in memory of his deceased wife. Even when he was booted from power and imprisoned by his own son, Shah Jahan spent endless hours alone staring across the Jamuna River, at the monument to his beloved queen.

Ah, the tragedy. Lately, however, my work among royalty hasn't been as... well, imaginative. Okay, so there was the "secret" love affair between Angelina and Brad, post-Jennifer, which wasn't very secret because somehow the paparazzi was all over the place. Of *course* everyone knew that Brad was raiding Angelina's tomb! And now she has a big belly to prove it. Fine, that was good for about a year's worth of celebrity buzz, but not exactly a story that will be retold for centuries to come.

Oh, by the way, I should warn y'all about the fakes out there, there's a lot of that going around, like that whole Tom-Kat fairy tale. Or even the Richard-Angel myth, or the Piolo and Claudine fabrication. Hogwash. Talk about debasing my craft!

Lately, I admit I've been a bit uninspired.

See, ever since this thing called "progress" kicked in, I've had some stiff competition in the matchmaking industry. Take the Internet. Ever since that crap-ass movie, "You've Got Mail" showed, people started looking for love in cyberspace, instead of living out their beautiful lives leaving fate to strike at the perfect moment. Lately, just to evaluate the competition, I actually logged on and chanced upon this new e-mail circulating called "The Atrocities of Friendster." I scoped out some of the romantic hopefuls, and encountered one such revolting male who listed among his interests, "sex, sex, sex and 'orgys.'" I don't know what caused me to retch, his outright perversion or his spelling. Now how can I ever be the agent for true love for people like that?

It doesn't help that "The 'L' word" these days doesn't stand for what it has for so long, because it's apparently a hit TV show in the States about lesbians. Oh, and did I mention that Kris Aquino was born on Valentine's Day? Sigh.

But something else has been bugging me lately, and I think it has less to do with my quarter-millennium life crisis than my own love life. Say what? Yes, you read that right the first time. I'm depressed about my love life, or rather, my lack thereof. You know what they say, that the guy with the longest hair turns out to be the barber. Okay, so you smarties who are well-versed with Roman mythology are probably wondering, what ever happened to Psyche??!

Ah, yes, Psyche, beautiful Psyche. She was so ravishing that my own mother, Venus, was so jealous that she plotted against her by using me! Yep, I was truly a son of a bitch. But Psyche remained really strong and cool, she never once left her fate in the hands of the jealous, and I soon fell in love with her. We were then united by the gods.

But it's over now, between us. In fact, it's been over for a long time now. See, I was such a workaholic; I believed in what I was doing so much that I failed in my own relationship. The irony of it all! She told me I was more in love with my career than with her. She even suspected I was having an affair with one of my clients! Our great love affair went pffft, but it was never leaked to the public. Why, you ask? Well, think about it, what kind of authority would a matchmaker have if he was single, right?

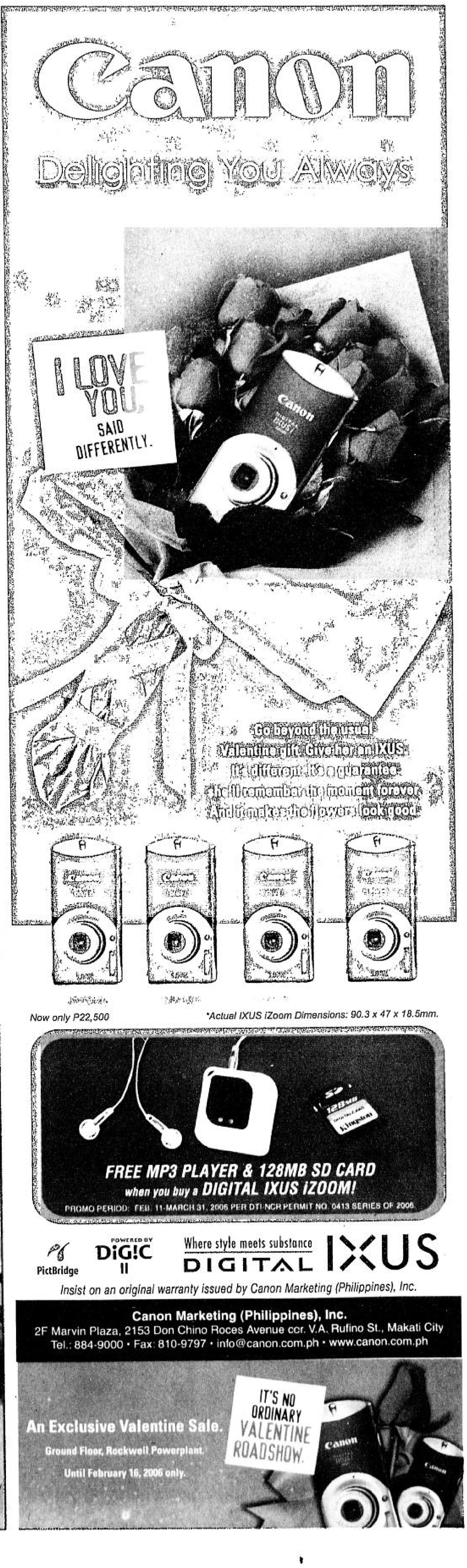
So it's true, let the whole world know, Cupid is single! And that, to some people, means death.

In truth, though, being single these past three hundred years or so hasn't been such a bad thing. Ok sure, it's a bit of a monumental task to get back into the dating scene after all these centuries. I mean, I trounce around in diapers and fluffy feathers for Jupiter's sake! See, even my references are outdated! Yet there are a lot of great things about it. Like following my all-time passion, for one, which is finding happiness for other people. That's where I found my own happiness, especially when I know that it's real, that what I've done has inspired stories and songs and poetry to be remembered for years to come.

For me, my own classic story is that I have loved so deeply, so truly, and that I *still* revere her, my beloved, my one true love for all eternity. And that will never change. For to find someone else to fill that void would be to settle for the lesser, and that is not worthy of what I hold most immortal and sacred.

Thus, for every heartbreak, for every opened wound that refuses to close, and for every tear shed because one has loved so deeply beyond himself, I say with utmost conviction that it is absolutely worth it, for that only means that it was true. Now *that* is something that you all share with the gods.

Take it from me, I should know.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HOW TO GET THERE From EDSA northbound, turn right to Quezon Ave. Go straight ahead past Iglesia ni Kristo Central Temple, McDonald's and Ever Gotesco Mall. As you see St. Peter's Parish on the right side of the road, get ready to turn right to Batasan Road, marked by the new Sandiganbayan Bldg. Follow the Batasan Road and turn right to Batasan Road Extension. Then turn left upon seeing Petron Gas Station. Enter the Filinvest II Gate 1. Follow the directional signs to Spring Country.
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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0637, Series of 2006.

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Say it with flowers

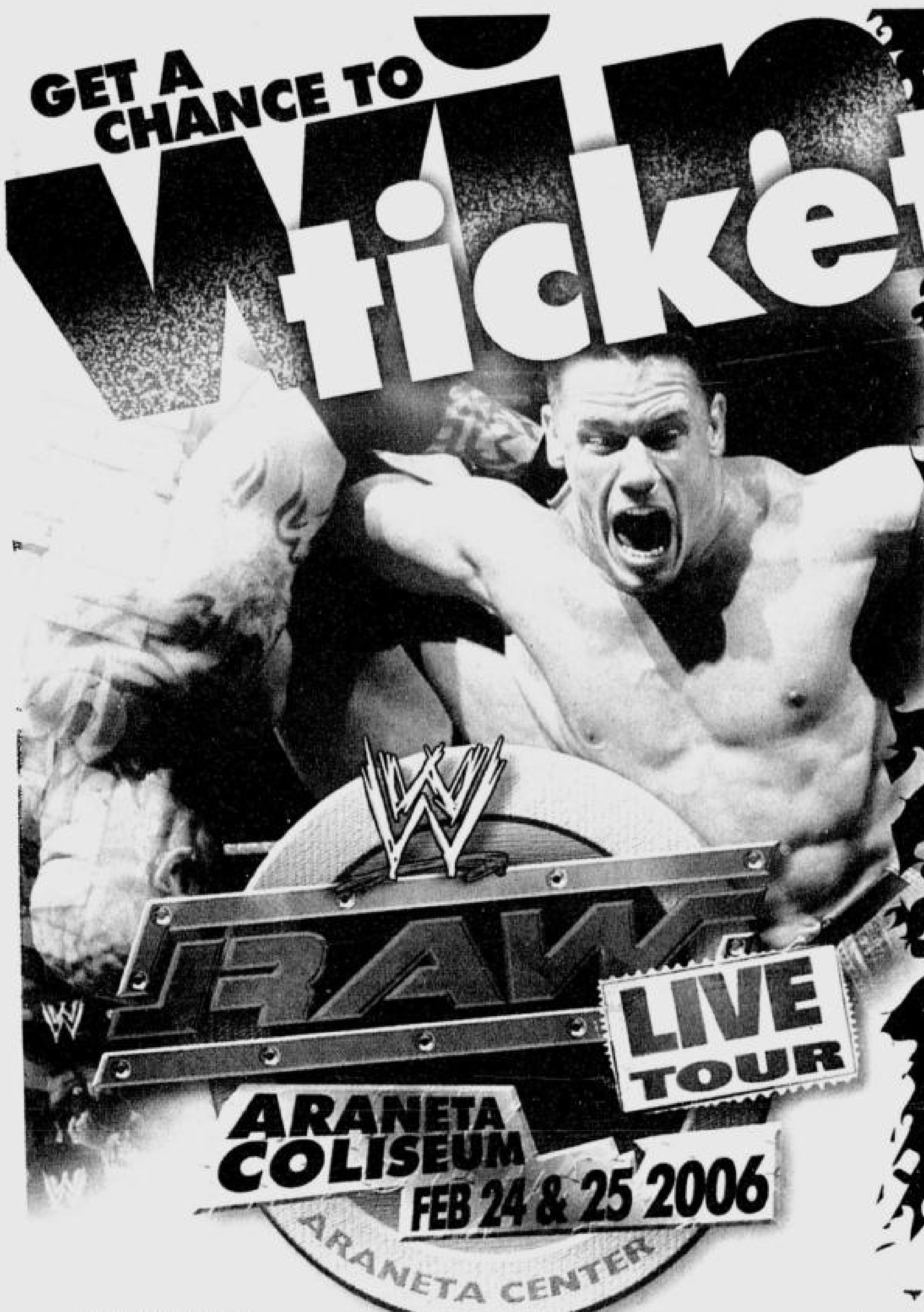
THIS VALENTINE'S DAY, SUPER! SAYS, let flowers do the talking! It doesn't matter whether your loved one fancies roses or appreciates something a little more different—there's a team of skilled designers who will readily create beautiful arrangements with fresh, high quality flowers to suit your taste at easy and affordable prices.

Ana Martha Moreno and her flowery friends have been spearheading this Valentine project for years now, making bright, young things shine brighter with their pristine plumes.

If making your partner happy isn't enough of a reward, a portion of their sales will be donated to charity.

Not only will you be brightening someone's day, you'll also be helping making a difference in other people's lives. Now that's what we call a happy Valentine's Day.

Give Ana Martha and friends a call at 09188906757 or 0917-8453800 or 8422785.



GET A CHANCE TO WIN tickets!

with a minimum P800 purchase at Pizza Hut from Feb. 8 - 17, 2006

MAJOR PRIZES 15 winners of 2 Upper Box A tickets to the WWE Raw Live Tour

MINOR PRIZES 10 Winners of Meet & Greet with WWE Superstars for 2 persons on Feb. 24, 11 am at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila Hotel with 2 General Admission tickets to the WWE Raw Live Tour

CONSOLATION PRIZES 20 winners of WWE t-shirt and caps

RAW LIVE TOUR
ARANETA COLISEUM
FEB 24 & 25 2006
ARANETA CENTER

up close & personal with W Superstars

Here's how to join:

1. Pizza Hut customers with a minimum single-receipt purchase of P800 at selected Pizza Hut restaurants in National Capital Region (NCR) and Rizal, during the promo period, are qualified to join the promotion;
2. Pizza Hut team member shall automatically put a stamp at the back of the receipt of customers whose billing is P800 or more. This shall be given to the customer together with the change after payment;
3. Customers must simply fill up the information at the back of the receipt and drop at designated drop boxes inside the restaurants;
4. All entries must be dropped in designated drop boxes on or before store closing of February 17, 2006;
5. Raffle draw shall be held at Pizza Hut Marketing office located at the 15th floor of the Aurora Tower in Araneta Center, Quezon City at 4:00 in the afternoon of Feb. 18, 2006;
6. Winners shall be informed via registered mail, call and text message from Pizza Hut marketing on February 18, 2006;
7. Ticket prizes shall be sent to the winners through courier after the draw;
8. Promo is for dine-in, takeout and delivery customers of selected Pizza Hut National Capital Region (NCR) Restaurants including Rizal province;
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable;
10. Meet & Greet is scheduled only on Feb. 24, 2006 at 11:00 am at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila in San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Quezon City;
11. When claiming the prizes, customers must present one valid ID : current passport, SSS ID, TIN ID, Company ID . Student's ID or drivers license;
12. Winner can only win once. If drawn more than once, winners shall get the prize of higher value.
13. All employees and relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity of Philippine Pizza, Inc. Araneta Group of Companies, its Advertising and PR Agencies are not qualified to join the promo.

Pinaka pizza
Pizza Hut
based on 2005 ARD survey

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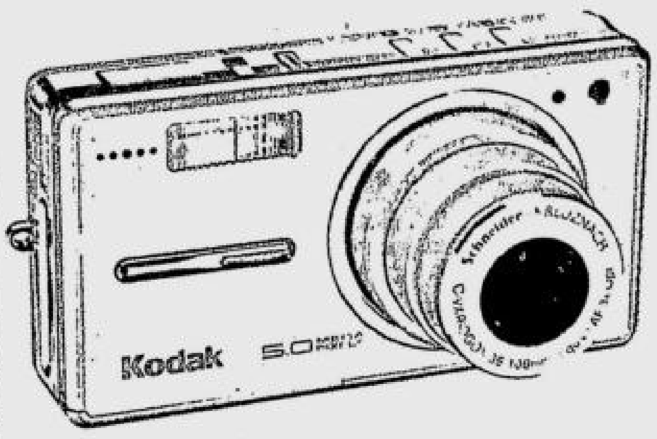
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0837 series of 2006

A HOT SHOT DEAL



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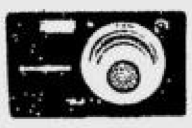

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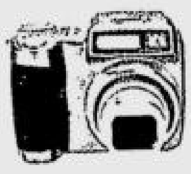

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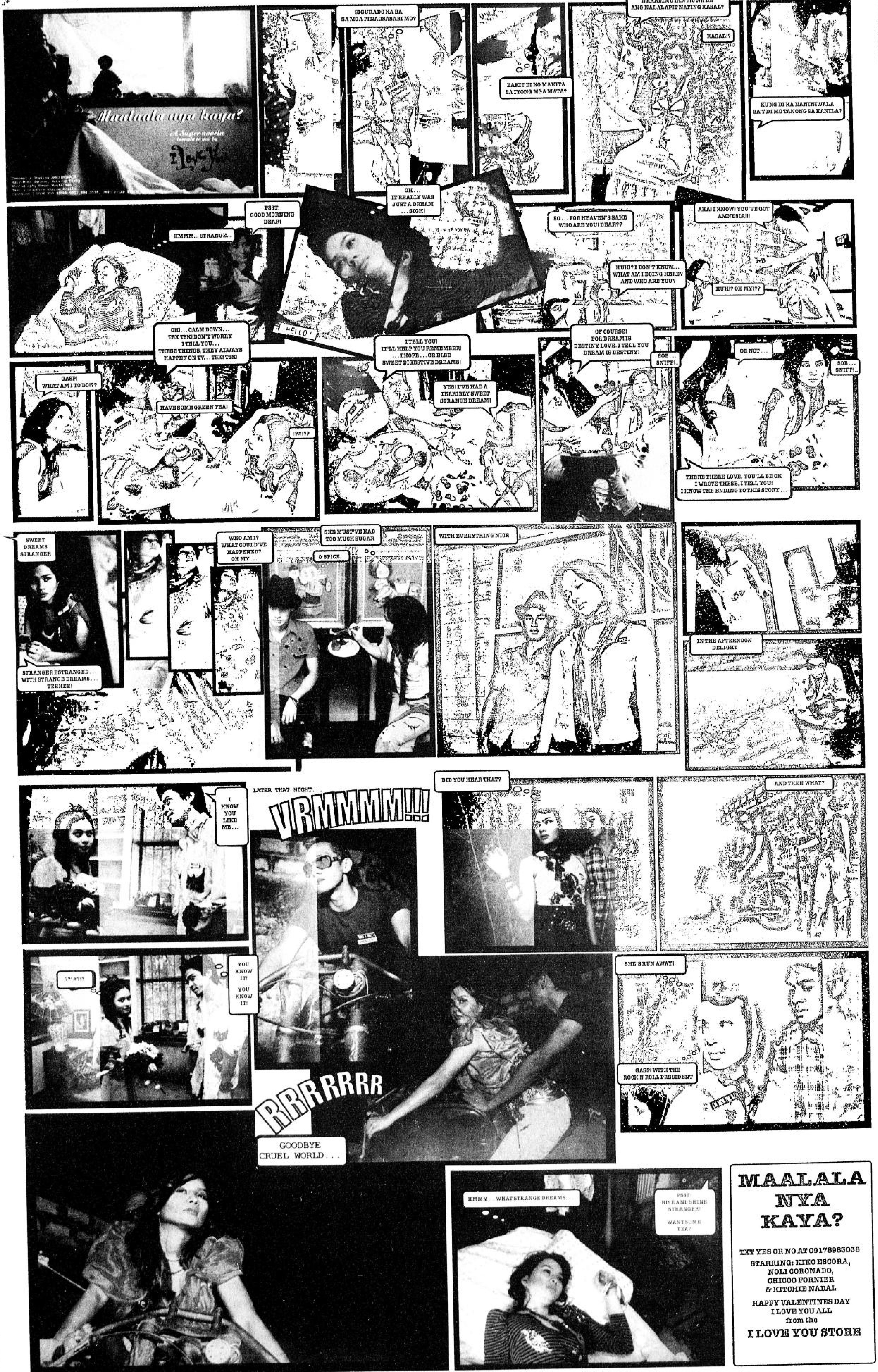
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0585, Series of 2006

Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights

Super! I Love You! Super! I Love You!


Maalaala nya kaya?
A Super-novela
brought to you by
I Love You
SIGURADO KA BA SA MGA PINAGSASABI MO?
BAKIT DI MO MAKITA SA IYONG MGA MATA?
NAKALIMUTAN MO NA BA ANG NALALAPIT NATING KASAL?
KASAL!?
KUNG DI KA NANINIWALA BA'T DI MO TANONG SA KANILA?
PSST! GOOD MORNING DEAR!
HMMM... STRANGE...
OH... IT REALLY WAS JUST A DREAM ...SIGH!
HELLO!
SO ... FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE WHO ARE YOU! DEAR??
HUH!? I DON'T KNOW... WHAT AM I DOING HERE? AND WHO ARE YOU?
AHA! I KNOW! YOU'VE GOT AMNESIA!!!
HUH!? OH MY!??
OH!... CALM DOWN... TSK TSK! DON'T WORRY I TELL YOU... THESE THINGS, THEY ALWAYS HAPPEN ON TV... TSK! TSK!
GASP! WHAT AM I TO DO!??
HAVE SOME GREEN TEA!
!?#!??
I TELL YOU! IT'LL HELP YOU REMEMBER! ...I HOPE... OR ELSE SWEET DIGESTIVE DREAMS!
YES! I'VE HAD A TERRIBLY SWEET STRANGE DREAM!
OF COURSE! FOR DREAM IS DESTINY LOVE. I TELL YOU DREAM IS DESTINY!
SOB... SNIFF!..
OR NOT...
SOB... SNIFF!..
THERE THERE LOVE. YOU'LL BE OK I WROTE THESE, I TELL YOU! I KNOW THE ENDING TO THIS STORY...
SWEET DREAMS STRANGER
STRANGER ESTRANGED... WITH STRANGE DREAMS... TEEHEE!
WHO AM I? WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED? OH MY...
SHE MUST'VE HAD TOO MUCH SUGAR
& SPICE.
WITH EVERYTHING NICE
IN THE AFTERNOON DELIGHT
I KNOW YOU LIKE ME...
LATER THAT NIGHT...
VRMMMM!!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
AND THEN WHAT?
??'#?!?
YOU KNOW IT! YOU KNOW IT!
SHE'S RUN AWAY!
GASP! WITH THE ROCK N ROLL PRESIDENT
RRRRRRR
GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD...
HMMM... WHAT STRANGE DREAMS...
PSST! RISE AND SHINE STRANGER! WANT SOME TEA?

MAALALA NYA KAYA?

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STARRING: KIKO ESCORA,
NOLI CORONADO,
CHICOO FORNIER
& KITCHIE NADAL

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
I LOVE YOU ALL
from the
I LOVE YOU STORE

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Absolut-ly Lenny

ABSOLUT KRAVITZ.

ABSOLUT IS PROUD TO ANnounce the launch of Absolut Kravitz—a new music project which sees Lenny Kravitz creating an exclusive new track based on his interpretation of the Absolut brand.

"We are thrilled to have Lenny Kravitz with us on our creative journey and in this, our first high-profile music project," says Michael Persson, Globan Brand Director for Absolut Vodka. "Not only is he supremely talented; in his output, inspired by so many genres and eras of music, defies categorization, making him truly individual—a quality which means he is perfectly at home with the creativity of Absolut."

One of the pre-eminent rock musicians of our time, Lenny Kravitz is an icon whose bold, channeling sound has transcended genre, style, race and class. Over a remarkable 16-year career, Kravitz has managed to do it all with a contemporary urgency rivaled by none. All of his albums have been certified either platinum or multi-platinum. He has also been showered with accolades including MTV Video Music Awards, American Music Awards and four consecutive Grammy Awards for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance. Kravitz's appeal has also been recognized by his peers; his collaborative efforts are as varied as his own influences, having worked with Madonna, Slash, Jay-Z, N.E.R.D., P. Diddy and Alicia Keys.

Famous for its creative collaborations with leading world-famous artists and designers, this collaboration marks the first time Absolut has worked with such a well-known figure from the world of music.

"Absolut has had a history of working with great artistic people—like Andy Warhol, Tom Ford, Jean Paul Gaultier, Gianni Versace and Kenny Scharf. I thought it would be interesting to do an artistic collaboration like this and be part of that heritage," says Kravitz.

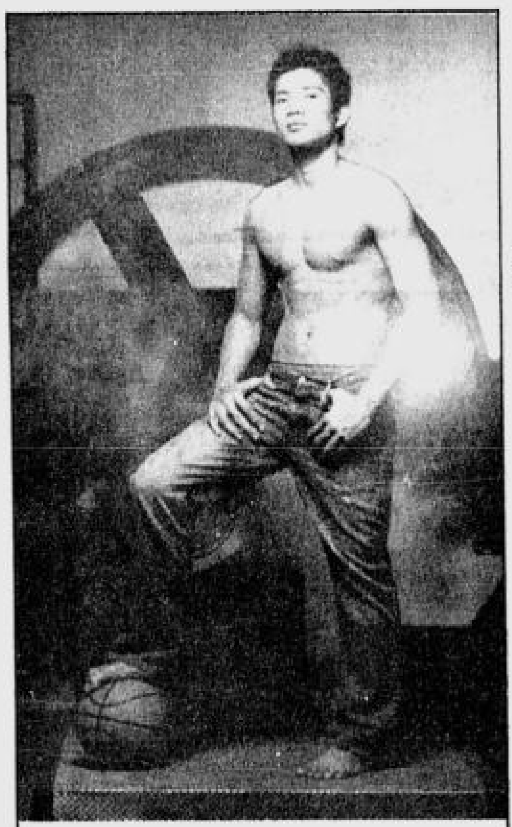
Kravitz recorded a new song, entitled "Breathe," in New York, which will be featured in the campaign. Although this collaboration marks the first collaboration with an internationally recognized recording artist, the brief given to Kravitz was exactly the same as the one any world-class artist working with the brand would receive: present your personal interpretation of Absolut and its core values. The result is a track that is a transition from Kravitz's traditional rock and roll to a distinctly dance music sound, with minimal lyrics, a memorable melody and pulsating beat.

Kravitz said that he was inspired by the brand's core values of clarity, simplicity and perfection. "There's nothing more simple, clear of perfect than the essence of true love," he says. "Once I'd felt that, the track just came."

"The Absolut brand is synonymous with a true and genuine passion for creativity. Using communication technology we are now able to share this creativity and distribute our collaborative artistic worked with a global audience" says Michael Persson.

Kravitz's new track "Breathe," part of the Absolut Tracks Collection, will not be for sale as part of the Absolut Kravitz project. Instead it will be available to download for free, along with is accompanying video, from www.absoluttrakcs.com.

ABSOLUT KRAVITZ.
download the full experience at absoluttracks.com



WALK TALL, JAMES YAP

JAMES YAP has every reason to walk tall nowadays. His dream of becoming a PBA basketball superstar is now a reality. He is scheduled to be married to one of the country's most eligible bride - none other than media superstar and scion to one of the richest families of Luzon - Ms.Kris Aquino. And now -finally - he has a pair of jeans that he can wear without worrying about its length - because Bench/ denim Overhauled has a longer inseam, longer leg and was truly created for the very tall. This Bench Overhauled denim- called Walk Tall are available in 30", 32" and 34" lengths.

With Filipinos getting taller by the minute - Walk Tall is indeed a prayer answered to a lot of our teeners who are hitting 6 feet by the time they are 16 and adding inches to their height faster than they can tie their rubber shoes. Gone are the days of consciously tugging and pulling down their jeans - Walk Tall comfortably eases you into the longer inseam and longer leg.

Bench Walk Tall denim is available at all Bench outlets nationwide.

ADVT

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To join, simply avail of travel packages to Singapore during the Philippine Travel Agencies Association's (PTAA) **13th TravelTour Expo 2006 on February 10, 11 & 12** at the **Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall** and visit us at booth nos. D273-D275 at the International Pavilion.

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UNIQUELY Singapore

Singapore TOURISM BOARD

See flyers for details.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0117, series of 2006.

bench_
BODY
Why don't you
hug me,
baby me,
love me?
Why don't you come?
Kris
KRIS AQUINO
bench_BODY
eau de toilette
Scents by Kris Aquino
www.benchbody.com

February 11, 5-7PM
SM Megamall Atrium Bldg. A
Featured Guest: Christian Bautista

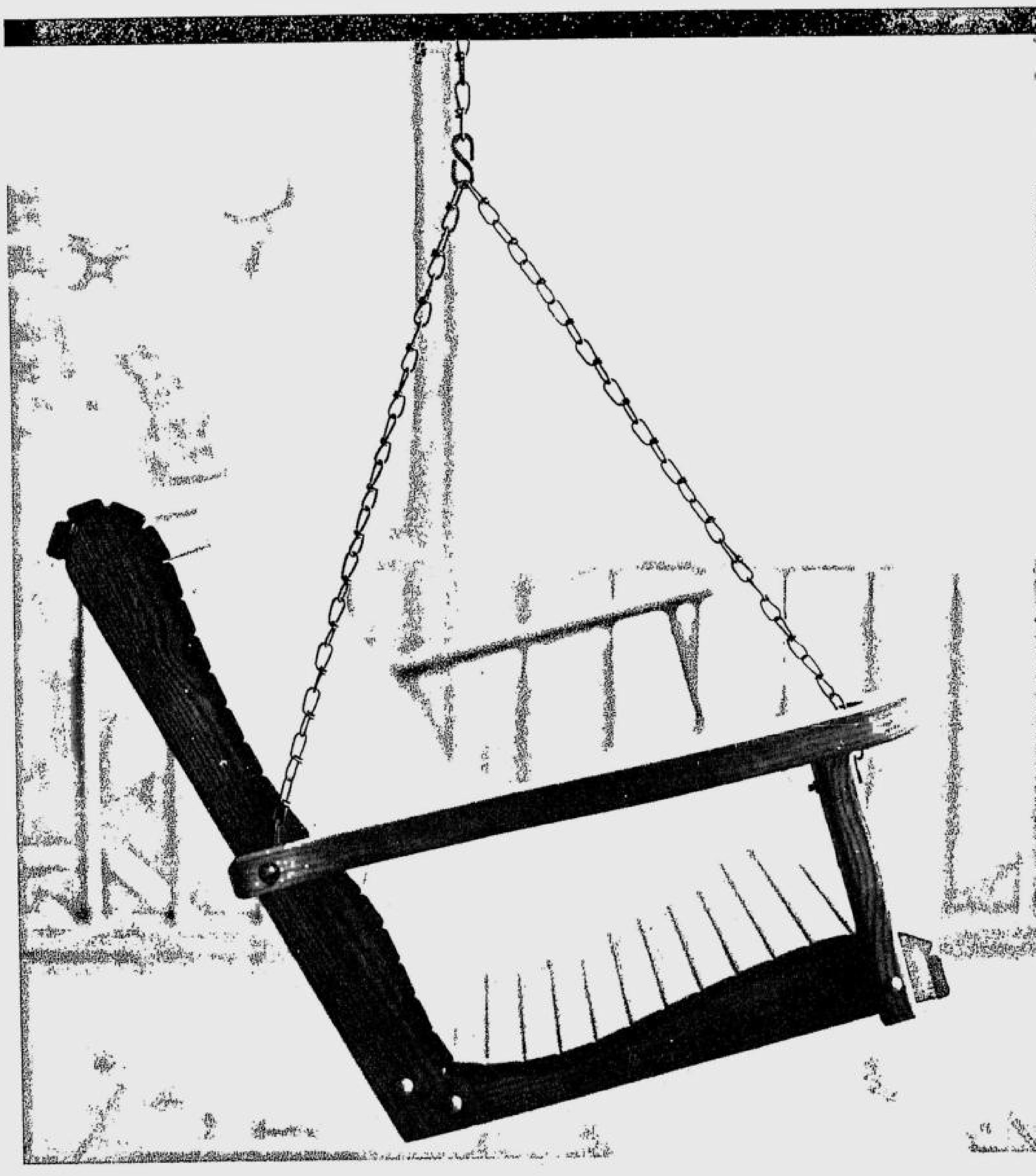
Brittany Corporation and the Quiros family

MASTERPLANNING IDYLLIC GRANDEUR IN STA. ROSA

Brittany Corporation, in partnership with Sta. Rosa's Quiros family, is currently turning their grand vision for Sta. Rosa into reality.

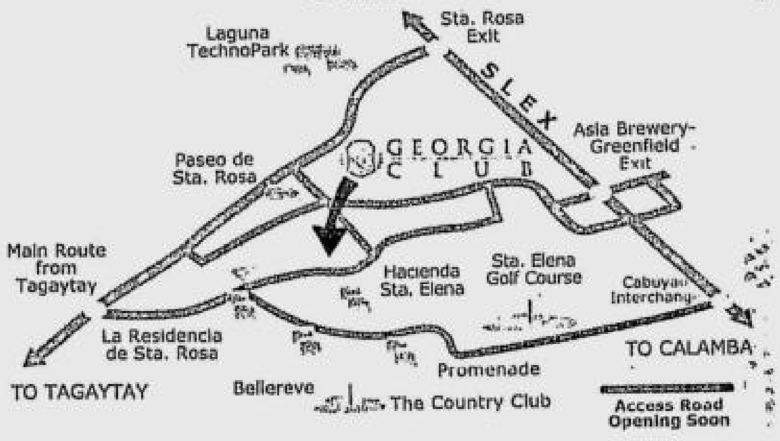
A BREATHER, TO REFRESH AND RENEW...

A TIME OUT.



Inspired by the grand homes of the American south, the exclusive Georgia Club takes on the charm of classic southern architecture with homes featuring front porches, surrounded by towering trees and lush gardens...the perfect place for taking a breather, a time out from the everyday.

Complemented by modern urban amenities and the nearby commercial areas and leisure destinations, Georgia Club is quickly emerging as the star development along SLEX where you live among your own. It is life at the upper crust.


TO MANILA
Sta. Rosa Exit
Laguna TechnoPark
SLEX
Asia Brewery-Greenfield Exit
Paseo de Sta. Rosa
GEORGIA CLUB
Main Route from Tagaytay
Hacienda Sta. Elena
Sta. Elena Golf Course
Cabuyao Interchange
La Residencia de Sta. Rosa
TO CALAMBA
Promenade
TO TAGAYTAY
Bellereve
The Country Club
Access Road Opening Soon

GEORGIA CLUB

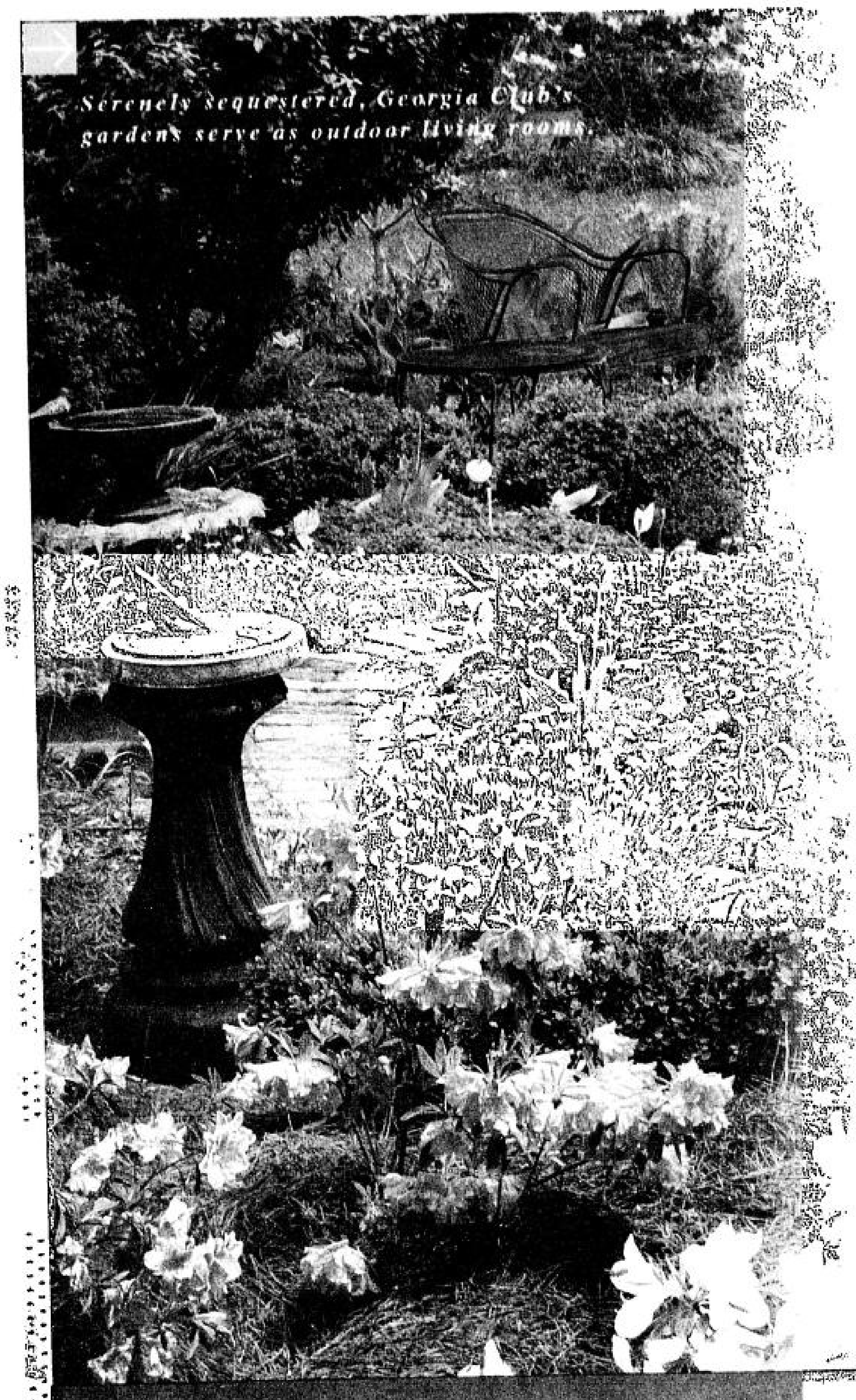
Take time out to know Georgia Club.

Get a Property Preview • 842 1251 or 842 1360 • www.brittany-georgiaclub.com

Homes and lots and lots only available.

Brittany Corporation

Mesaland Development Company Inc.



Serenely sequestered, Georgia Club's gardens serve as outdoor living rooms.

This vision is quickly progressing, turning Sta. Rosa into a major hub for residential, leisure and economic activity.

It is a vision of an expansive community of residential enclaves surrounded by commercial and business areas, connected by accessible roads and set in hectares of idyllic land. This vision is quickly progressing, turning Sta. Rosa into a major hub for residential, leisure and economic activity across 510 hectares of prime land. Of this, 180 hectares is being developed by Brittany.

Today, that vision takes a step forward towards full realization with the latest exclusive community by Brittany—Georgia Club. As lyrically stated in the popular song, "Georgia On My Mind", Georgia Club immediately brings to mind the property's inspiration, the charming American southern state of Georgia.

Georgia Club stands as an integral member of the community of communities in Sta. Rosa, complementing the Brittany developments of Bellereve, Fontamara, Promenade and La Residencia, and the Quiros development of Hacienda Sta. Elena. With Georgia Club, the shared vision of Brittany and the Quiros family is fast becoming a grand reality.

From the song *Georgia On My Mind*, the lyrical inspiration for Georgia Club

"Melodies bring memories
That linger in my heart
Make me think of Georgia
Why did we ever part
Some sweet day
when blossoms fall
And all the world's a song
I'll go back to Georgia"

SOUTHERN CHARM:

The Inspiration For Georgia Club

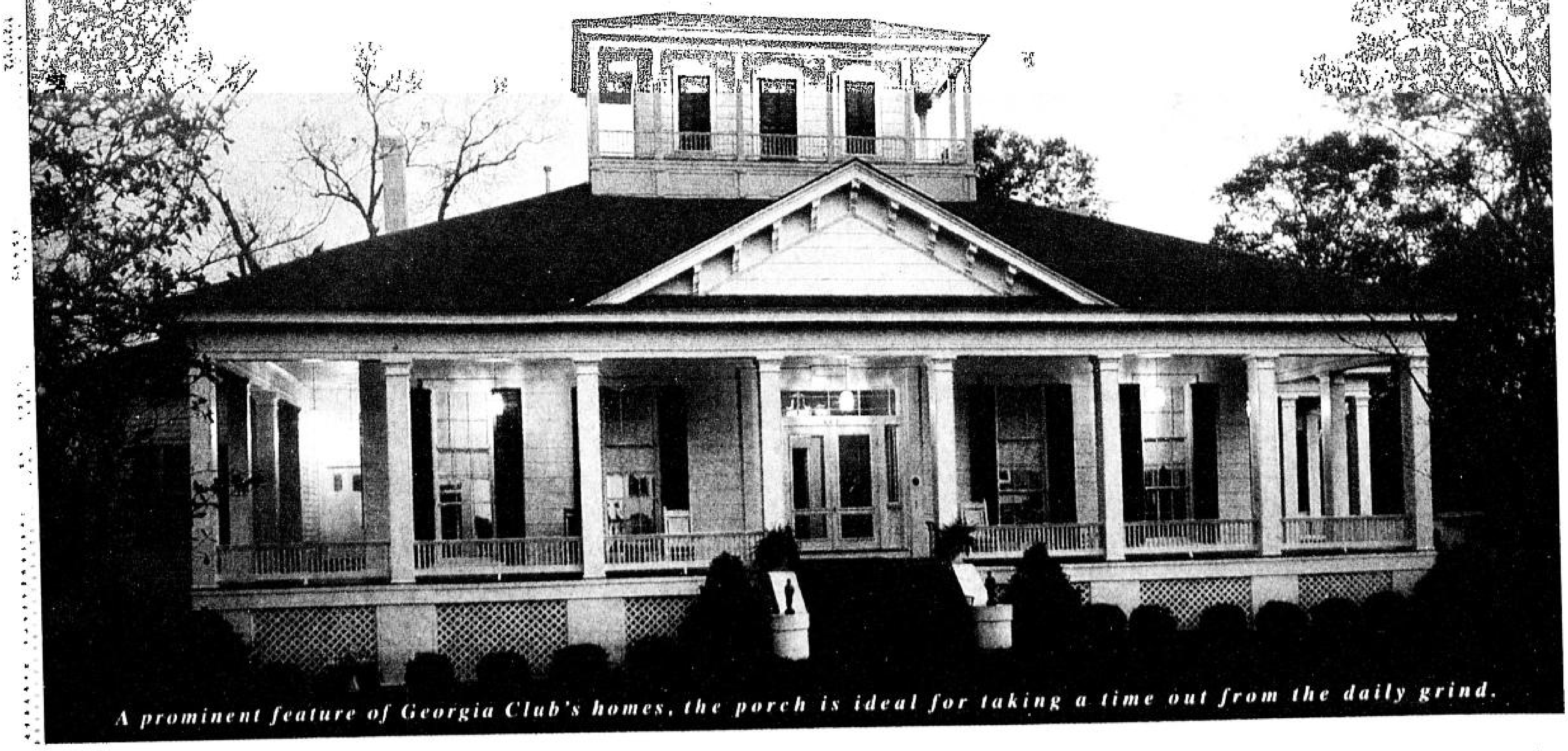
Lush greenery spans across the horizon. The warm welcoming atmosphere relaxes. Quaint charming homes offer the ideal place to indulge in a more refined way of life. Life moves at a gentler pace.

This is what it's like in the American southern state of Georgia. And this is what inspires life in Georgia Club.

As it is in the great communities in the state of Georgia, the exclusive community of Georgia Club is built amidst natural beauty. It features stretches of tall, sprawling trees and verdant plains. Mesmerizing vistas of clear blue skies and gentle terrain delight the senses. Pocket gardens and tree-lined pathways provide refreshing settings for lying back and lazing around. Georgia Club's charming homes take on classic American southern architecture. Wrought iron fences surround each house. Vibrantly colored shutters on French windows serve as colorful openings to a glimpse of the verdant land. The brightly colored doors are a welcome sight.

> The classic American southern homes, the welcoming atmosphere, and the relaxed lifestyle make for an environment conducive to a life more genteel...

At Georgia Club, the classic American southern homes, the welcoming atmosphere, and the relaxed lifestyle make for an environment conducive to a life more genteel–just a few of the many reasons why it's the star development along SLEX. And it all exudes southern charm.



A prominent feature of Georgia Club's homes, the porch is ideal for taking a time out from the daily grind.

GEORGIA CLUB:

MASTERPLANNING LIFE AT THE UPPER CRUST

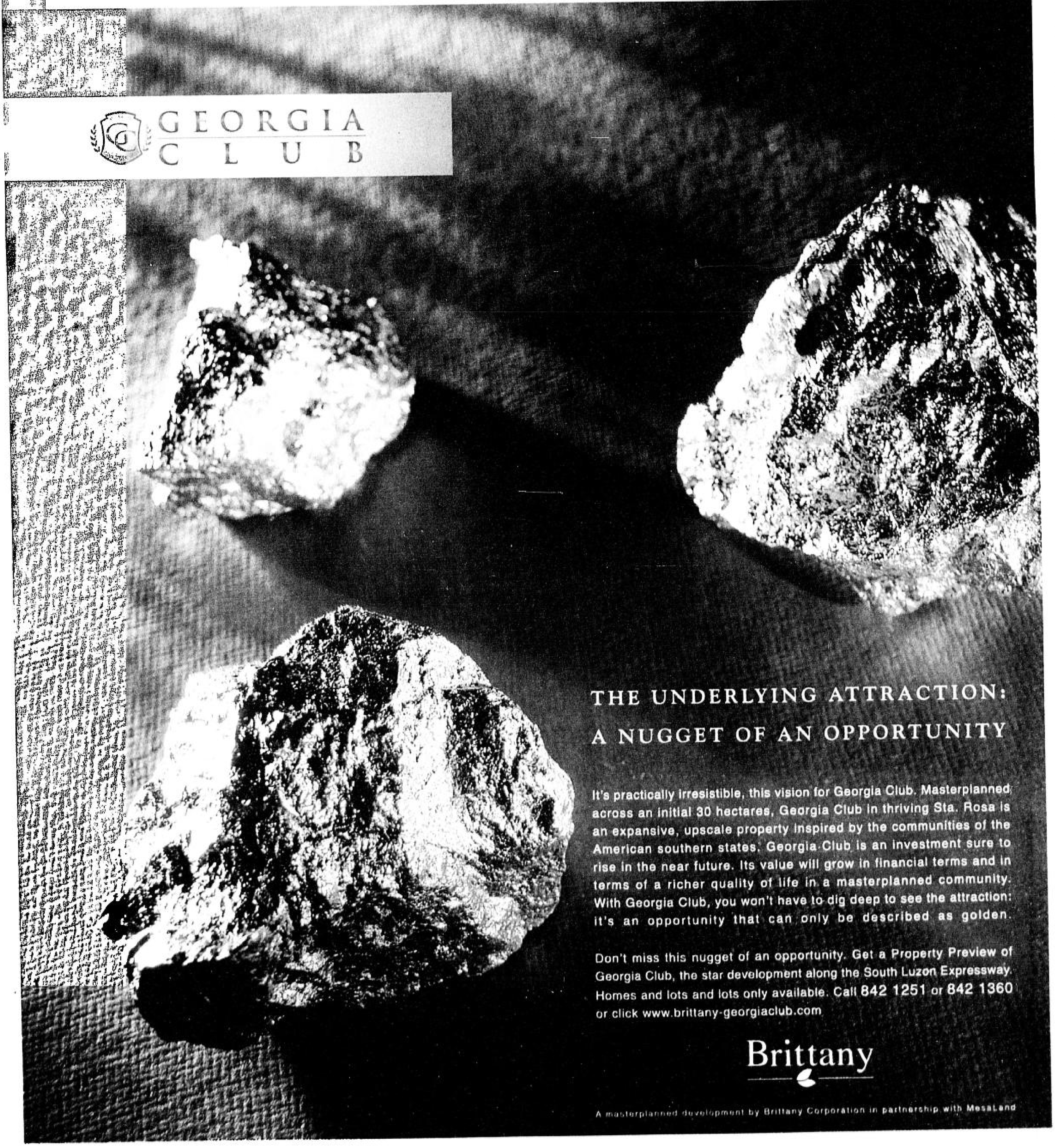
The masterplan for Georgia Club takes on a comprehensive scope as it puts together all the components vital to creating a *Lifescape*™—a unique harmony of property aesthetics and functions that make for a life both inspired and inspiring. With Georgia Club, the *Lifescape*™ is one that is exclusive—at the top tier. Where one lives among one's own. Initially spanning 30 hectares, the elements of the Georgia Club masterplan—the unique theme, the homes, the amenities, the central location and the accessibility—combine to provide the setting for a life most refined...life at the upper crust.

* * *

With Georgia Club, the *Lifescape*™ is one that is exclusive—at the top tier, where one lives among one's own.

* * *

The classic American southern home: a charming Old World setting for the upper crust life



THE UNDERLYING ATTRACTION: A NUGGET OF AN OPPORTUNITY

It's practically irresistible, this vision for Georgia Club. Masterplanned across an initial 30 hectares, Georgia Club in thriving Sta. Rosa is an expansive, upscale property inspired by the communities of the American southern states. Georgia Club is an investment sure to rise in the near future. Its value will grow in financial terms and in terms of a richer quality of life in a masterplanned community. With Georgia Club, you won't have to dig deep to see the attraction: it's an opportunity that can only be described as golden.

Don't miss this nugget of an opportunity. Get a Property Preview of Georgia Club, the star development along the South Luzon Expressway. Homes and lots and lots only available. Call 842 1251 or 842 1360 or click www.brittany-georgiaclub.com

Brittany

A masterplanned development by Brittany Corporation in partnership with MesaLand

ALL ROADS LEAD TO A RISING STAR DEVELOPMENT

The location of Georgia Club was carefully chosen to answer its residents' need for living a richer, more well-rounded life.

Georgia Club is in a uniquely enviable location, as it is situated in the middle of thriving Sta. Rosa, close to everything needed for answering one's needs in daily life. It is near the commercial area and it is between Tagaytay's leisure destinations, and the commercial and business districts of Alabang and Makati.

Some of the country's distinguished academic institutions are also close by, including the University of Sto. Tomas, The Acacia School, St. Scholastica's College, Don Bosco, and the Ateneo Graduate School. Premier recreational facilities—the Sta. Elena Golf Club, the Canlubang Golf & Country Club and The Country Club—take but a few minutes' drive. The world class Asian Hospital and other medical facilities are a short drive away. Moreover, access to and from Georgia Club is easy. You can take the traditional route via the Sta. Rosa exit or take the new Asia Brewery-Greenfield exit. It is a shorter, quiet, and more leisurely drive to Georgia Club.

With Georgia Club's location and accessibility, practically all roads lead to this star development in Sta. Rosa.

The idyllic environment of Georgia Club is easily reached via SLEX.

Situated in the middle of thriving Sta. Rosa, Georgia Club is close to everything vital to answering one's needs in daily life.

A 15-Year Partnership In One Handshake

Brittany Corporation, the maverick in real estate development and the Quiros family of Sta. Rosa forged a solid partnership based on one of the finest of foundations– a single handshake.

That handshake comes with the values vital to building the partnership–integrity, honesty, good faith and importantly, a shared vision for Sta. Rosa.

Offering homes inspired by the world's finest destinations, Brittany Corporation, the real estate maverick, continuously develops, *Lifescapes*™ or communities that provide for every family's needs in a home, in Sta. Rosa, and in other areas in Metro Manila.

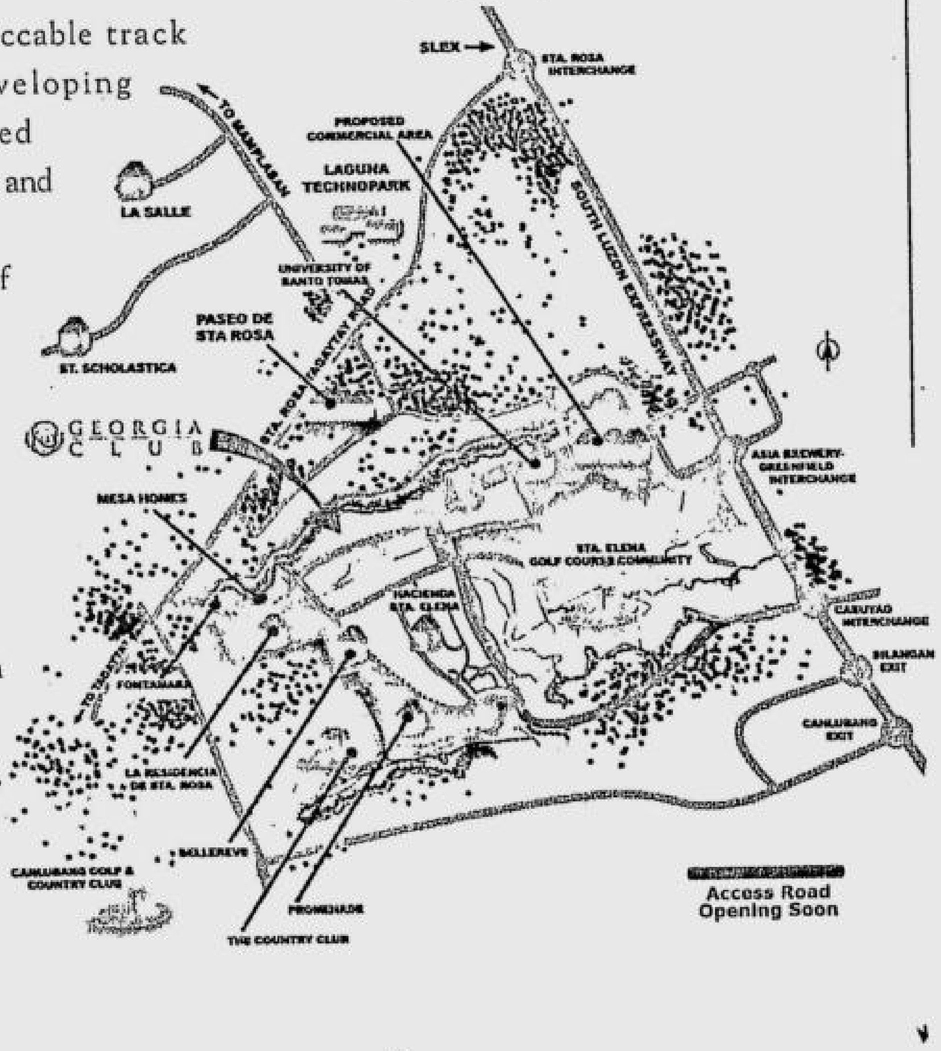
The Quiros family, who initiated the grand vision for a masterplanned Sta. Rosa, steadfastly makes sure that every development stays true to their vision. Brittany shares in this vision, fortifying one of the industry's most solid partnerships.

Across 15 years of partnership, Brittany Corporation, together with the Quiros family, have worked together to develop a neighborhood of thriving residential enclaves.

Bellereve, Fontamara, Promenade, La Residencia and Hacienda Sta. Elena complement the nearby business and commercial areas of Sta. Rosa.

With an impeccable track record of developing masterplanned communities, and the shared grand vision of uplifting the quality of lives of families, the partnership of Brittany Corporation and the Quiros family is bringing a magnificently idyllic future to Sta. Rosa. And it all started with a handshake.

The partnership between Brittany and the Quiros family has resulted in a masterplanned Sta. Rosa that puts together residential enclaves with commercial and business districts in a location that is close to everything a family needs in life.


SLEX
STA. ROSA INTERCHANGE
PROPOSED COMMERCIAL AREA
LAGUNA TECHNOPARK
TO MANILA
LA SALLE
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
PASEO DE STA ROSA
ST. SCHOLASTICA
STA. ROSA-TAGAYTAY ROAD
GEORGIA CLUB
ASIA BREWERY-GREENFIELD INTERCHANGE
MESA HOMES
STA. ELENA GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY
HACIENDA STA. ELENA
CABUYAO INTERCHANGE
SILANGAN EXIT
FONTAMARA
TO TAGAYTAY
LA RESIDENCIA DE STA. ROSA
CANLUBANG EXIT
BELLEREVE
CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
PROMENADE
THE COUNTRY CLUB
Access Road Opening Soon